Corron Farm Preservation Society

P. O. Box 155, Wasco, IL 60183-0155 ***www.CorronFarmPreservationSociety.org***
PHONE: 630-513-6038

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Historic Corron Farm
7N761 Corron Road
Campton Hills, IL

THIS PROPERTY
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CORRON FARM
1835

January 22, 2020

Allen County Public Library,

The Corron Farm Preservation Society is donating the attached Muirhead Family History written by Lucinda Muirhead Corron in 1952 to the Allen County Genealogical Library.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thomas C. Corron
6830 Tralee Ct
Fort Wayne IN 46835
Email – tcorron@live.com
Mobile – (515) 745-2043

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Corron

Thomas C. Corron *Board Chair Emeritus - Corron Farm Preservation Society*

The Corron Farm Preservation Society is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserve, increase and enrich knowledge of the history of the Corron Farm and early Campton Township and to provide leisure and educational opportunities for Township residents, businesses and surrounding communities.

Also please see http://campton-parks-and-open-space.com & https://www.facebook.com/CorronFarm1835

The Muirhead Family History

By

Lucinda Muirhead Corron

The Muirhead Family

August 1951

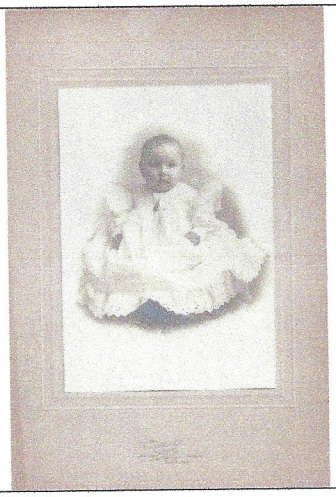
About the Author

Lucinda Muirhead Corron,

age 101, of Campton Twp.
Born June 4, 1909

Died June 13, 2010

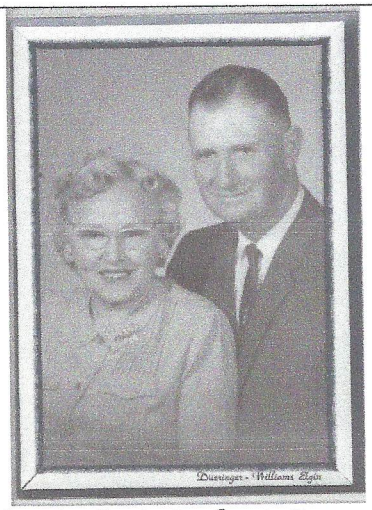
Lucinda Muirhead was born June 4, 1909 in Plato Township the daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Beith Muirhead.



Lucinda married her husband, Robert Charles Corron, on June 14, 1946 and moved to the Corron family farm in 1956.

The farm was settled by her husband's grandfather, Robert Corron of Greenbrier County West Virginia.

Lucinda taught English at Plato High School until her marriage to Robert Corron.



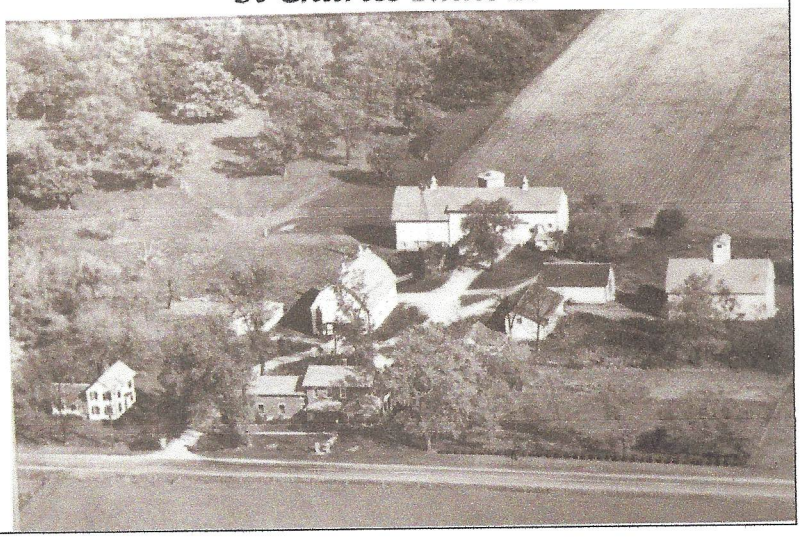
Lucinda & Robert Corron

She is survived by two sons, Robert (Jane) Corron of Campton Township and David Corron of Campton Township, one daughter, Sarah (Larry) Toms of Oregon, IL., and one granddaughter, Ashley (John) Bailey of Traverse City, Michigan.

Lucinda was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; two sisters, Elizabeth Muirhead and Lillian Dahlstrom; and two brothers, Donald and John Muirhead.

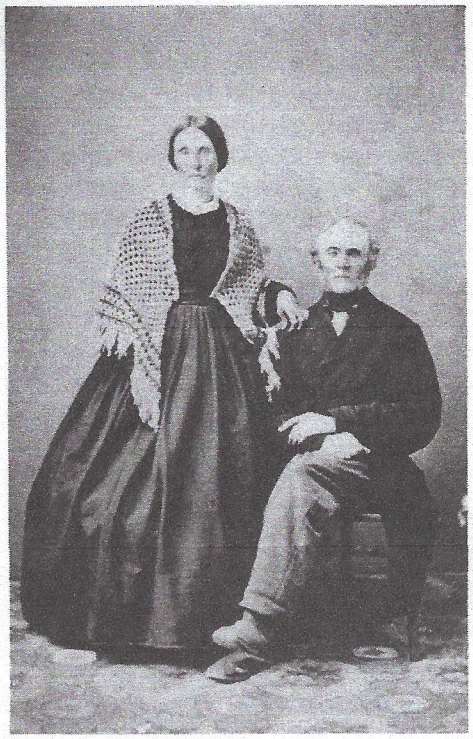
Mrs. Corron lived at Corron Farm until her death in 2010.

Aerial View of Corron Farm c. 1965
Located 7N761 Corron Road
St Charles Illinois.



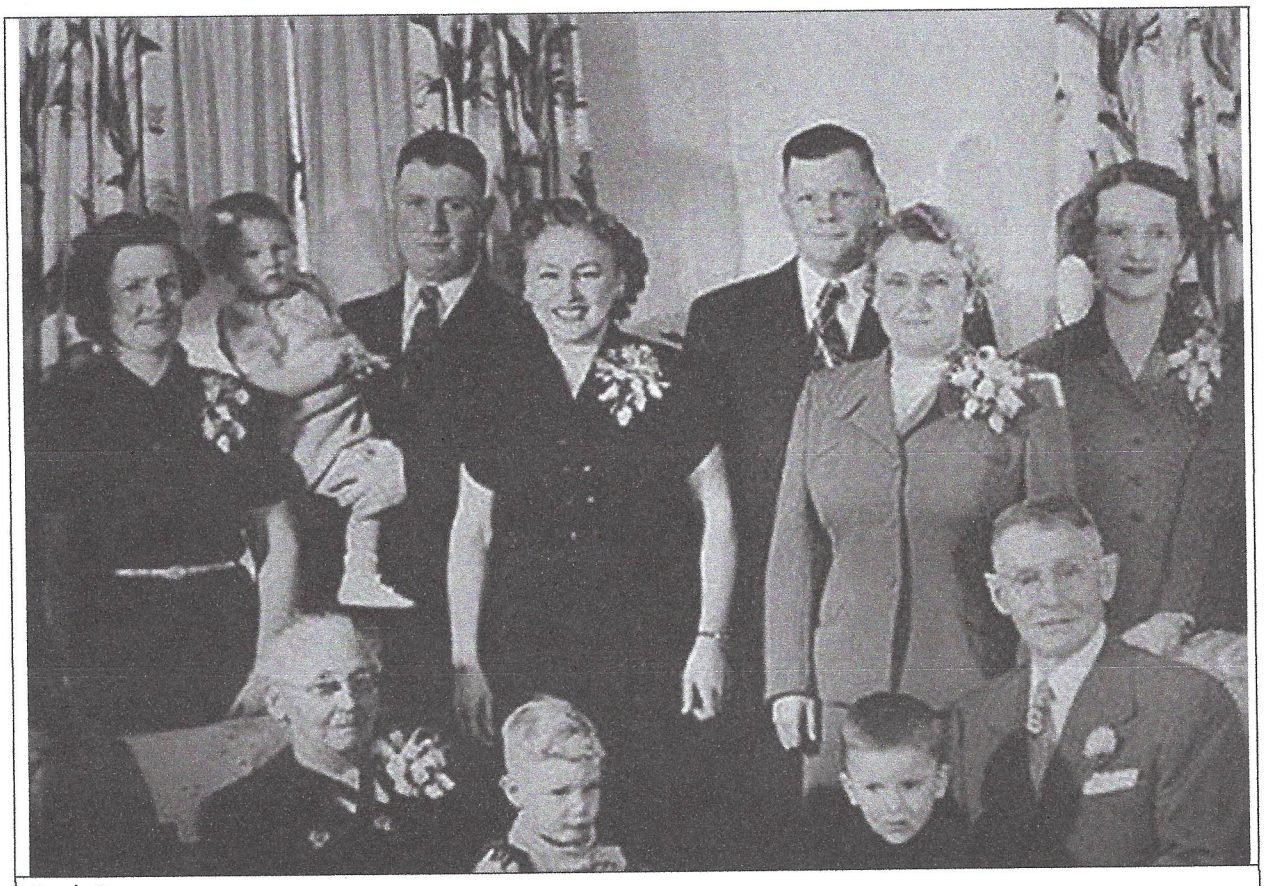
Lucinda graduated from Plato Township High School in 1927 and also was a graduate of Wheaton College in 1931 and Northwestern University M.A. in 1938.

Her memberships included: the Wasco Ladies Aid, St. Charles Women's Club, and she was a former member of the Plato Methodist Church. She also was a longtime volunteer at the Elgin Mental Health Center and wrote "Memories of a Volunteer" about her work there. Lucinda was infatuated with genealogy and local history and authored several other books, including the History of Campton Township, Robert Corron Family History, and the Beith Family History.



Mary and George Muirhead

Seated--Left to Right: Catherine, James, Ann, George Jr.
Standing--Left to Right: Lillie, John, Emily, Nettie, Luella, Will, Charles, Jane



Back Row:

Sybil Muirhead., Sally Corron, Robert C. Corron Sr, Lucinda Muirhead Corron, Verner and Lillian (Muirhead) Dahlstrom, Kathryn Muirhead.

Front Row:

Grandma Muirhead. (Elizabeth Beith), Robert C. Corron Jr., Don Muirhead., Grandpa Muirhead . (John Sr)

William Muirhead

m. Elizabeth McFarland

1 WILLIAM
2 *GEORGE
3 *JOHN
4 ELIZABETH m.—Tweedle
5 JAMES

*twins

(name unknown) Scott

(m. name unknown)

MARGARET m.(name unknown) Bennie

1 THOMAS
2 JOHN
3 ANN

James Morrison

m. Jane Ann Gray

1 JOHN
2 WILLIAM
3 DAVID
4 JAMES
5 JEAN m. David Hamilton
6 MARY

George Muirhead

m. (1) Ann Bennie—m.(2) Mary Morrison

1 CATHERINE
2 GEORGE
3 ANNABELLA
4 JANE
5 JOHN (died in infancy)

1 EMILY
2 MARY
3 JANETTE
4 JAMES
5 WILLIAM
6 LUELLA
7 LILLIE
8 CHARLES
JOHN

THE MUIRHEAD FAMILY

In 1802 there were born in Glasgow, Scotland, to Mr. and Mrs. William Muirhead, twin sons who were later to emigrate from their native land to New Zealand and America. It is with one of these sons, George Muirhead, who emigrated to America and settled on a farm in the Middle West many years later, that this record is primarily concerned. An older son of the couple, William Jr., had made a name for himself when he fought with the English forces under the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo against Napoleon Bonaparte. However after the cessation of hostilities he left the army and returned to his home where he led a comparatively quiet life in Scotland. Another brother, James, is believed to have lost his life by drowning while he was still a young man. Elizabeth, the only girl in the family, married a man named Tweedle. She was the grandmother of Tom Brown, who will be referred to later in this history, and after her daughter's death she cared for Tom and his brother during their childhood.

In contrast to William's adventurous experiences on the continent, the twins' early years were rather uneventful. Like the other Scottish lads, as soon as they were old enough they were sent to school, but as was the case with most of the youth of that time, their education was limited, and at an early age they went to work.

George's introduction to the business world came when he left school to learn the weaver's trade. For eleven years he stayed with the same firm, but when the opportunity was offered him for advancement in his profession, he entered the employ of Sir James Anderson, where he worked until he came to America. He was promoted to the position of warper, and in addition to his work of making patterns for paisley shawls he had charge of the weaving over many operators. The esteem in which he was held by his employer was evident when he announced his intention of coming to America.

After George had become well established in business he married Ann Bennie, also of Glasgow. To them were born five children: Kate, George Jr., Ann, Jane and John. In addition to his work as a weaver George owned a confectionary and fruit store in Glasgow; while her mother, Mrs. Bennie, who lived with the young couple, took care of the home, George's wife attended to the store. Soon after the birth of the youngest child, John, Ann died of cholera. Naturally her sudden death was a great blow to her husband, and it was followed by another calamity when Mrs. Bennie contracted the same disease and died a little later. Thus, the young father was faced with the tremendous problem of caring for his five motherless children.

At this time land speculators were painting in glorious words the opportunities to be had in America, "the land of wealth." As time passed George became more and more fascinated by the idea of emigrating to the New World, and so he began to make plans for such an adventure, setting in order his business affairs prior to the prospective voyage. When Sir James learned that he was really serious, he begged him to give up the mad plan and continue with his firm, but George was really determined to go to America. In order to realize as much cash as possible before starting this long uncertain journey, he sold much of his property, though he did retain many personal possessions such as books and furniture to take with him to the new home.

During this time George had been courting a young lady, Mary Morrison, who was then only twenty-three years of age, and on August 14, 1849, he married her. Mary was the daughter of James and

Jane Ann Gray and was born at Partic near Glasgow July 26, 1826. Her father was a burger in the city of Glasgow, and in connection with this job his children received free clothes and a free education from the city. In his younger days he had been a weaver. Mary had four brothers: John made cotton yarn dresses;William made lock keys; David, a cabinet maker, was killed at work; and James was a ship's carpenter. Her only sister Jean married David Hamilton, and they later emigrated to Michigan, where some of the descendants still live.

Shortly after his marriage George, with his young wife and his children, left his native Scotland never to return. A short time before George set out for America, his twin brother, John, went to New Zealand as a missionary. It is probable that some of John's descendants still live in New Zealand, though no contact has been made with them for many years.

In the late summer of 1849 the family set sail from Glasgow for Liverpool. At the dock to see them off, besides their relatives and friends, was Sir James Anderson, who showed his appreciation for George's long years of service in his firm by presenting to him ten pounds in gold (approximately fifty dollars in American money). To Mary he gave a dozen sterling silver teaspoons and an equal number of tablespoons.

At Liverpool the family embarked on a small American sailing vessel, the Thomas H. Perkins, and began the long ocean voyage across the Atlantic. To these people who had never been on the water the trip was a hard one. Storms, seasickness, and all the other discomforts of ocean travel in those days beset them. Not the least among these was the fear of the sharks,which followed the small sailing vessel and proved a real hazard to their safety. But the greatest calamity was yet to befall them -- the loss of a loved one. After some time at sea John, not yet two years old, fell ill and died. To prevent the sharks following them and perhaps upsetting the boat, the captain at once made plans for burial at sea. The grief-stricken family pleaded with him to let them keep the child until they reached land, and because he believed that they were not far from land, the captain finally yielded to their entreaties and agreed to defer the burial of the child as long as the boat was not harassed by sharks. Not long after that they sighted a little island off the coast of Newfoundland, and the captain sent out a small boat with a few sailors, the mother and father, and the body of the tiny boy. In the sandy soil of this island the sailors dug a small grave and a short service was held. Thus the final lap of their journey was not very joyous. They returned to the vessel and continued on their way along the Atlantic coast, finally landing at Philadelphia in the fall of 1849, probably late in October.

Their original destination was Cumberland, Maryland, as George had a relative living there, and so they left Philadelphia for Baltimore, which was not far from Cumberland. Upon their arrival at Cumberland they found that the relative was no longer there, but only a short time before had returned to Scotland. Just what the family ought to do now was a question. They remained there only long enough to decide they didn't care very much about the country. The climate of Maryland was too unlike that which they had left for them to be very satisfied there, and when George saw the way negro slaves were used in the South, he was only too glad to leave. Their personal belongings had been sent ahead to Maryland, and when they decided to move westward they faced the problem of the transportation of these possessions. Since their destination was unknown and the cost of ex-

pressing personal property exceedingly great at that time, they finally decided to sell those things they did not really need. Consequently many of the treasured books and pieces of furniture which they had brought with them from Scotland were sold in Maryland.

When George decided that he did not wish to remain in Maryland, he studied the map of the United States to find a place which he thought might be suitable for a home. When he saw the name Dundee on the map he was reminded of the country from which he had come, and concluded that that town must have been settled by Scottish immigrants. Almost immediately he decided to go to Illinois. As soon as arrangements could be made the family took the train at Baltimore and traveled on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That train ride proved to be one of the most exciting experiences that George had had since leaving Scotland, and in later years he took great delight in giving the details of that journey. At one point when the train stopped, he saw some delicious looking apples, so he left the train to pick some. Though he was late in getting back to the train, the engineer proved more considerate than would be the case today and waited for him to climb aboard; so, fortunately, he was not left stranded somewhere in western Pennsylvania. At Pittsburgh they took a boat down the Ohio River, and on this trip George was again greatly aroused at the cruel treatment of the negro slaves in the Ohio River Valley. At one time he incensed the captain of the boat and a Southern planter by his outspoken comments when he saw two negroes chained together working in the fields. When he remarked that it was a crime to treat any human being as the Southerners used the colored man, he was warned not to state his views so freely on the boat; however he continued to denounce slavery until the captain said roughly, "If you open your head on that subject again, I'll blow your brains out." Thereafter George decided that it would be wise not to state his opinions so frankly, but his hatred of slavery grew, and he became a strong abolitionist and consequently one of the very early supporters of the Republican Party when it was organized a few years later.

From the Ohio River their course took them into the Mississippi, then into the Illinois, and then through the canal to Chicago, which was then only a small town at the head of Lake Michigan surrounded by acres of undesirable swamp land. The family left the corn-laden canal boat, on which they had made the trip from Pittsburgh, at Chicago, and immediately George set out to find a way to get to Dundee. Since George knew nothing at all of farming, his wife thought it would be advisable for him to give up the idea of going to Dundee and had urged him to buy a store in Chicago and settle there. George however, was determined to go, and when Mary realized this she was eager to get to Dundee as soon as possible. During their stay in Chicago whenever she saw a wagon passing she wanted her husband to go and ask the driver if he were from Dundee. George ridiculed her for thinking everyone she saw was from Dundee, but soon after their arrival in Chicago she sighted a burly old Scotsman unloading pork and insisted that George find out if he were from Dundee. Strangely enough he did prove to be a resident of Dundee, Illinois, and it was with this chance acquaintance, on a rough wagon drawn by oxen, that the family at last reached Kane County, where they were to establish a home and spend the rest of their lives.

Upon their arrival in Dundee they found that there was no vacant house in the village. The hospitality of the early American settlers was revealed in their being taken in by a Scottish family, the McNeils, who had only recently come to Dundee. The Muirheads

stayed with them for about six weeks, but with winter coming on George felt that they could not impose too long upon the kindness and hospitality of these good people, and he resolved to find a home for his family. With the help of their Dundee friends they at last were able to move into a new schoolhouse which had just been completed and was not yet being used.

Ever since his arrival George had been looking for a farm in order that he might establish a permanent home. On a visit with John Bennie to the Sheddon home in Plato that winter he found that there was a farm for sale in section fourteen in Plato Township. This is the farm now owned by Mrs. Youngs and where Kenneth Russell now resides. After looking it over George was satisfied that it was the sort of place he wanted, and he purchased it from Thomas Baldwin for the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars, five hundred of which was to be paid within ten days from the date purchased and the remaining one hundred and fifty dollars was to be paid in three equal annual installments with interest commencing on the date purchased. The rate of interest at that time was from fifteen to twenty-five percent. The deed was drawn up by Mr. Sheddon, and the document is now in the possession of the William Muirhead family of Elgin.

Of those first years of farming little is known, but it must have been a great struggle, involving many sacrifices for the entire family. While they lived on this farm five children were born to the couple: Emily (1850), Nettie (1852), James (1854), William (1857), and Luella (1859).

One of the most interesting and what proved later to be one of the most important experiences in the life of the Muirheads was the friendship which began here with the McMurchy family. One cold winter day this family stopped at the Muirhead farm and asked for aid for their sick son, Malcolm, who at the time was about three years of age. The McMurchys were headed westward but had no definite destination in view. George remembered the kindness that had been tendered him and his family when they first came to Illinois and reciprocated by taking in these people who were so much in need of help. The child recovered and the McMurchys spent the rest of the winter with them. In the spring they continued on their way and established residence in Ohio Grove west of DeKalb; however a short time later when the opportunity arose, they moved to the vicinity of South Grove near the town now known as Esmond. Naturally the friendship begun between the McMurchys and Muirheads here was a lasting one and it was through the frequent visits of these two families that the Muirhead family became acquainted with the McKenzie brothers, whom two of the girls were later to marry.

One of the first things the Muirhead family did after they had established their home was to join a church. Since there was no church in Plato at the time they first attended the Udina Congregational Church. An interesting example of the intense religious fervor, typical of the people in general, is told by the family. One day George, on his way to church with his family, spied one of his neighbors working in the field. The man was Tommy Baldwin, with whose family the Muirheads enjoyed many good times. Since George knew that Baldwin shared his ideas in the observance of the Sabbath, he thought there must be some mistake and he sent George Jr. to the field to remind Mr. Baldwin that it was Sunday. As soon as George delivered his father's message, Baldwin unhitched his team and left the plow standing in the field and hurried off to church. He had simply mistaken the day of the week, and when he realized he had desecrated the Lord's Day he was overcome by his sinfulness.

For ten years the Muirhead family lived on the eighty acre farm east of Plato. Because of his rapidly growing family George felt the need for more land, and when the opportunity came for him to sell his farm to Randolph Bode at a considerably higher figure than the original purchase price he did not hesitate. The result was that with the money he received from that sale he purchased a one hundred and sixty acre farm in section sixteen west of the village. This farm still remains in the possession of the family, being owned by Mrs. Charles Muirhead, widow of George's son, and rented by Robert Muirhead, the only son of Charles. The cost of the farm was eight dollars an acre, and in the spring of 1860 George moved with his family to the new home where he was destined to spend the rest of his days. It was here the youngest children were born: Lillie (1862), Charles (1864), and John (1869). The first years in the new home were also full of hardship, as it was during this time that the Civil War broke out. George had borrowed a rather large sum of money to purchase the farm and during the war he was forced to pay forty per cent interest on that borrowed money.

Though George Jr. was old enough to go to war and wanted to enlist, there was too much work on the farm as his father was not in very good health and was unable to do much of the heavy work. The system of drafting young men was much different from that used in more recent wars; the names of eligible citizens were placed in a hat and those whose names were drawn were immediately drafted into service. Fortunately, considering the situation at home, George Jr.'s name was never drawn. In spite of the fact that they took no active part in the war, they were vitally in sympathy with the North and its cause. Regularly both father and son attended meetings of the cavalry which was drilling at Plato Corners and which met with those good citizens, who were not in the war, in the old red school house. With all other Northerners they celebrated the peace treaty which was signed between Grant and Lee in 1865.

The joy that was felt throughout the country when word was received that the fighting was finished was cut short by the news of the great tragedy which occurred only a few days later -- the death of President Lincoln. Word traveled rather slowly in those days, and it was some time after the assassination took place that the Muirheads learned of it. George's daughter, Emily, had ridden to Elgin with a neighbor, Daniel MacArthur, and while they were in town they heard the news that Lincoln had been assassinated by the actor, Wilkes Booth, in Ford's Theater in Washington. When he brought Emily home that evening, MacArthur stopped to talk over the news. George was very upset over it, and his son, William, then only a boy of eight related something of their conversation which made a deep and lasting impression on his young mind. To George's natural question, "What do you think they'll do to this fellow Booth?" MacArthur replied,"They ought to put him in a box and let the ants eat him."

Following the war, life for the family became more normal. At the time the family first moved to the home farm there was practically no village at what is now Plato Center. Instead North Plato was the important center of community life, as it was there the postoffice and church were located. The church there had been established under the Presbyterian order, but later was purchased by the German Lutherans.

By 1859 the community felt the need of a church in Plato, and George and his family did their part in realizing this dream. It was George who raised the first shovel full of dirt for the erection of what is now the Plato Methodist Church. He pledged more money than

he could afford to pay and when the crops failed that year he met his payment by going to work in the building of railroads in this area. He was not a farmer; he never learned to drive horses or oxen very well, nor did he ever learn to milk a cow. So, when he worked for the railroads he let another man take his team, and he used a shovel. At various times during this period he worked on the railroads. At one time he worked on the line between Elgin and Dundee, and later between West Chicago and Elburn. Thus, with this work and his farming, he was able to make a living for his family and also to devote his share to the church.

The life of the early pioneers was not easy, but our ancestors were not accustomed to the ease and comforts of life that the present generation enjoys. Nevertheless their busy lives were filled with interesting happenings. A few stories concerning their everyday life show that they had the strength and weakness of all human beings. One story illustrates an unusual brand of sympathy that was exchanged in the "good old days." George had lost a yearling heifer of which he was very proud. Tommy Baldwin came to extend his sympathy. His remark to George was, "Blessed be nothing. If you hadn't of had it, you couldn't of lost it." When Baldwin later lost a horse George reciprocated by sympathizing with him in the same way.

George's lack of skill in handling animals has already been mentioned. One hot day he drove a team of oxen on a wagon loaded with wheat to Elgin. Near what in later years was known as Britton's Hill, then called Sherman Hill, the oxen ran away and before George could regain control they ran into a slough. While George was engaged in carrying the wheat out on his back in order to lighten the load so he could get the wagon out of the slough, a neighbor and a fellow church man came along. Seeing George's predicament he yelled, "Tough luck, Muirhead!" and continued on his way. George never forgave him for not stopping, but he was always grateful to Sherman who came out and helped him get the wagon and oxen out of the slough. Probably one of the reasons why George felt so bad about the mishap was that the high silk hat he wore was covered with mud when he arrived in Elgin.

In the old days when forms of entertainment were more limited than they are today, most of the people visited their neighbors very frequently. One evening the Muirhead family called on one of their neighbors and during the course of their visit they were given some pumpkin pie. George Jr. did not like pumpkin pie and couldn't eat his piece. He did not wish to be impolite, so he carefully tried to conceal his dislike from his hostess by clutching it in his hand. The poor boy spent a miserable evening trying to conceal the pie. As soon as they left the house George turned to his father, showing him the pie, and asked what he ought to do. George's terse reply, "Cast it away," seems out of keeping with Scotch thrift.

Though George was much older than his wife he survived her by nine years. Mary Muirhead died July 8, 1883, not quite fifty-one years of age and was buried in the family lot at Plato Center. During the last few years of his life George became rather childish,but the loving care of his children who were still at home --George Jr., Charles, Lillie, and John -- and his married children living near by made his last days happy ones. He passed away at his farm home where he had spent over thirty years of his life, in January 1892, at the age of ninety years and was laid to rest by the side of his wife in the Plato Cemetery.

Udina, Kane County, Illinois
July 18, 1860

Mr. David Hamilton

Dear Brother and Sister:

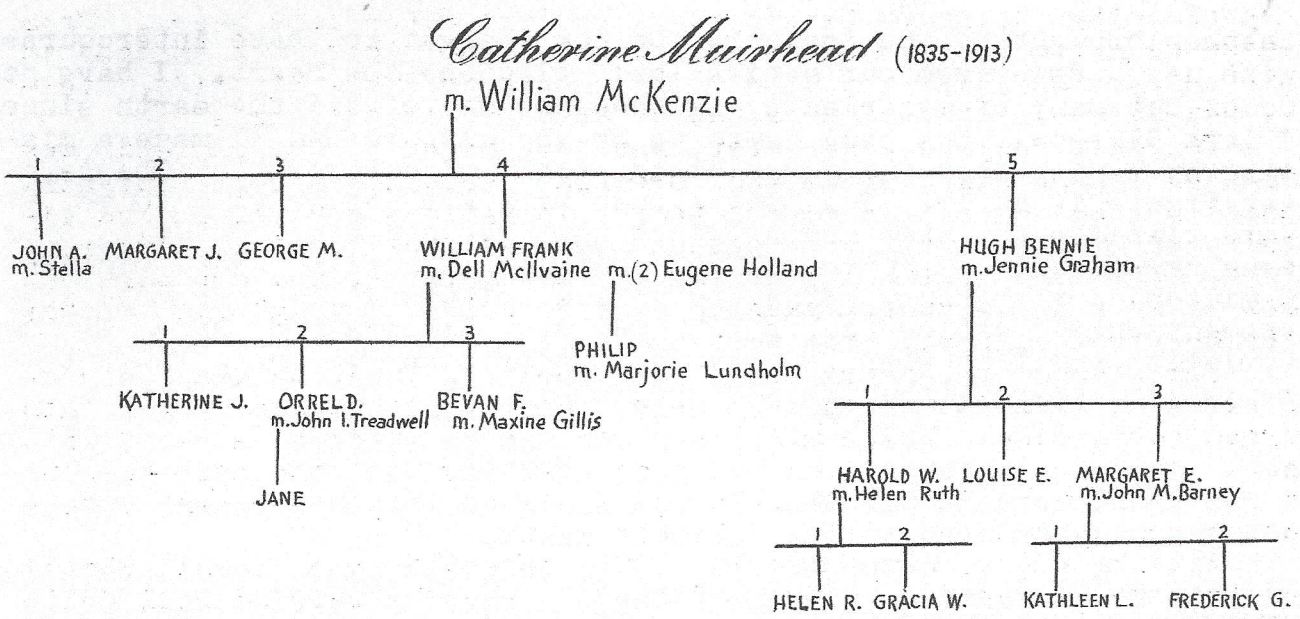
It is now a long time since I wrote to you and got no answer from you. Perhaps you did not get it -- but I hope you are all well and enjoying health, the greatest of all blessings. We have cause to be thankful to God for the health we all enjoy at the present time. Mary is in good health,and you would be astonished to see how she gets along with a large family -- and I must give the names of all the children: Emily Elizabeth is the oldest, Jennet is a fine smart girl, James Morrison is a fine boy, William is very bad with the whooping cough, and little Luella Margaret is a fine child. Everything looks beautiful the crops are very good this year. This is a fine country providing a man is out of debt. The crops for the last two years was a complete failure. We have to give for the lone of money in this country from 12 to 25 percent. This keeps a man very poor that has to pay. We have had hard times this last two years but Dear Brother we have cause to be grateful to a kind providence. Since we left Scotland we have had plenty of provisions and able to set down a good table to the stranger. We have sixteen head of cattle and five horses, but when we came to this land we bought to little land and we was unable to buy any more and if we could sell out we would go into a new country. We have to little land for George and me to work and he has no desire to leave us. He has been a dutiful son to us and he has the love of God in his heart. Cathrine has been very dutyful to us. She has been in that large city, Chicago for three years at the dress making. Ann and Jean is in good health and they are all well doing. I nearly forgot to tell you that Mary was at the point of Death last year when little Margret was born. She was bad for six weeks. She was kindly cared for by Cathrine and all the neighbors. The people is very kind heare in the time of trouble. You do not need to send for them for they come as soon as they heare of trouble in a family. They come and sit all night without being sent for. Many a time have I longed to see Glasgow. It would give me the greatest pleasure in the world to come and spend a few weeks with you.

Dear David we have cause to be thankful to a kind providence for his care over us as a family -- that he has kept us so long an unbroken family. Mary has sent her portreat and Emily's and Jennet's. Emily is on the right of her mother and no doubt her sister will be very glad to have them. Give our kind love to Mrs. James Morrison. I thank her kindly for the newspapers she has sent to me. I give our kind respects to all my brothers, and if we should not meet heare on earth may we all meet in that better land where we shall part no more. As this is a very busy time with me and Mr. Dikes is going away tomorrow, I have no more time to say any more, but I have still a desire to write a few lines more to you. It may be that I shall never have it in my power again to write to you, but I would like to see you all face to face and then I could tell you better about the country and about the manners of the people. The Americans are a fine class of people, but there is one thing in this country that I do not like and that is Slaverry. It is a curse to any nation. But Dear Friend, my heart has been filled with gratitude to God for his love to me in regard of my family. He has spared me to see one after

another brought to the Saviour. Do not forget to have intercourse with us. News from our native land gladdens the heart. I have no doubt but many of my friends is gone the way of all the earth since I left Glasgow. The call is to us be you also ready. I made a mistake by saying that Emily was on the right of her mother. The largest figure is Emily. You must excuse Mary for not writing to you at this time for the time was so short that she could not do it. Send me a newspaper. I must now bid you all farewell and I hope Mrs. Hamilton is very happy among her little children. We have many disappointments heare on earth but may we all live the life of the Christian and then when we have done with time we shall enter that happy land where there shall be no change.

George Muirhead

The foregoing letter, which is an exact copy of the original, was written by George Muirhead to his brother-in-law in Scotland and was sent back to America to the Hamiltons in Michigan. It was then sent to Mrs. Luella Sherwood, who was a baby when her father wrote the letter. The original is now in the possession of Mary Muirhead of Elgin.



Catherine Muirhead, the oldest child of George and Ann Bennie Muirhead, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, December 29, 1935. Her education was begun in the Glasgow schools and abruptly terminated at the age of thirteen when she emigrated to America with her parents. Since her young step-mother knew very little about housekeeping, Kate -- as she was usually called -- assumed many of the duties of the home and did much in helping to rear her younger brothers and sisters. Kate was quite a skilled seamstress and spent some time in Chicago during her young womanhood working in a dressmaking establishment.

The friendship between the McMurchy family and the Muirheads, which was related in the history of those first years in America, greatly influenced both Kate's and Jane's lives. After leaving Plato the McMurchys settled in DeKalb County at South Grove. In 1853 there arrived in America a young Scotsman, John McKenzie, who was looking for work. He came to DeKalb and while he was walking the streets of that town he chanced to meet a William Byers, who was looking for a hired man. Consequently he was hired immediately and went to South Grove to work on the Byers farm, which was near the place where the McMurchys later homesteaded. As soon as John was well settled he wrote home to Scotland urging other members of his family to come to America. His brother, William, responded at once by coming to DeKalb and before long the two brothers bought a piece of land in South Grove. Thus, it was on one of the Muirheads' visits to the McMurchys that Kate and Jane were introduced to the McKenzie brothers. William immediately became interested in Kate, and on October 19, 1863, he married her, taking her to live in South Grove, where they made their home for the next twenty years.

Kate and William had five children: John, Margaret, George, Frank and Hugh. In 1882 the couple sold their home in South Grove and bought another farm near Creston, where they lived until they retired from farming and built a home in the town of Creston. Here they spent their last days. William preceded his wife in death in May 1909. Kate died in May 1913.

The oldest son of the couple, John, was born in South Grove December 4, 1864. After he had grown to manhood he started farming near Rochelle. He stayed on this farm only a short time, leaving

this vicinity to go to Canada where he farmed for some years. From Canada he moved to Oro Grande, California, and there was engaged in chicken farming until the time of his death in 1940. His wife, Stella, now lives in Oro Grande alone as they had no children.

The only daughter, Margaret, was born March 1, 1867, and was educated in the South Grove and Creston schools. After finishing school she became a teacher and taught in various schools in the vicinity of Creston until her parents retired from farming. The rest of her life was spent in caring for her parents, and she survived them by only a few years, passing away in 1917. Through much of her life Margaret suffered from poor health.

The second son, George, was born April 7, 1869. He also received his education in the South Grove and Creston schools, and then turned to farming. While still a young man he suffered a heart attack. The evening before he had gone skating, and the next morning he was found dead in his bed. It was believed that his recent strenuous exercise brought on his untimely death.

William Frank, born June 10, 1871, attended the local schools and then began farming with his father. When he married Dell McIlvaine, his mother and father retired from the farm and moved to Creston, and Frank and Dell ran the farm. Frank passed away suddenly in 1911, and his widow and children left the farm and moved to Creston where they bought a home. Besides his widow, Frank was survived by three children: Katherine, Orrel, and Bevan. Some years later Dell married Gene Holland, and by this union there is one son, Philip. Katherine, the oldest daughter of Frank and Dell, attended the Creston schools and later studied at DeKalb State Teachers' College. After attending DeKalb for a year she began teaching in Berwyn. At present she teaches in Elmhurst, and in 1941 she completed her college work at Northwestern University. The death of Mr. Holland in 1941 left Dell and Philip alone, so they moved to Elmhurst to make their home with Katherine.

Orrel received her advanced education at Cornell College in Iowa, and after graduation she taught in Maple Park High School. It was in Maple Park that she met John Treadwell Jr., whom she later married. They have one daughter, Jane, who is now in nurses' training in Aurora. Orrel and John still reside in Maple Park.

Bevan, the only son of Frank and Dell, attended the Creston schools, and then went to work for the Creston Dairy where he was employed until he returned to the home farm to take up farming. Soon after he married Maxine Gillis. At present they are farming in the vicinity of Waterman, Illinois.

Hugh, the youngest son of Kate and William, was born January 30, 1875, in South Grove Township. After finishing school in Creston he began teaching school. However he soon left Creston to go to Chicago where he entered an insurance office. Here he remained until his retirement in March 1941. Shortly after going to Chicago he married Jennie Graham, and they made their home in Austen, a suburb of Chicago. Here two children were born: Harold in 1900 and Louise in 1913. They later moved to Winnetka, where they still reside, and it was here in 1915 that Margaret, their youngest child, was born. In September 1949 Hugh and Jennie celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

After graduating from New Trier High School in Winnetka and Northwestern University, Harold became an accountant. A short time later he married Helen Ruth, by which marriage there are two daughters -- Helen Ruth and Gracia Ward. Harold is now in business for

himself with headquarters in Chicago. He resides in Hubbard Woods, a North Shore suburb of Chicago.

Louise also studied at New Trier and Northwestern. Since her graduation she has been teaching in the Wilmette public schools and is now a principal. She spent one year on leave of absence from Wilmette and taught in the University of Honolulu in Hawaii. Louise makes her home with her parents in Winnetka.

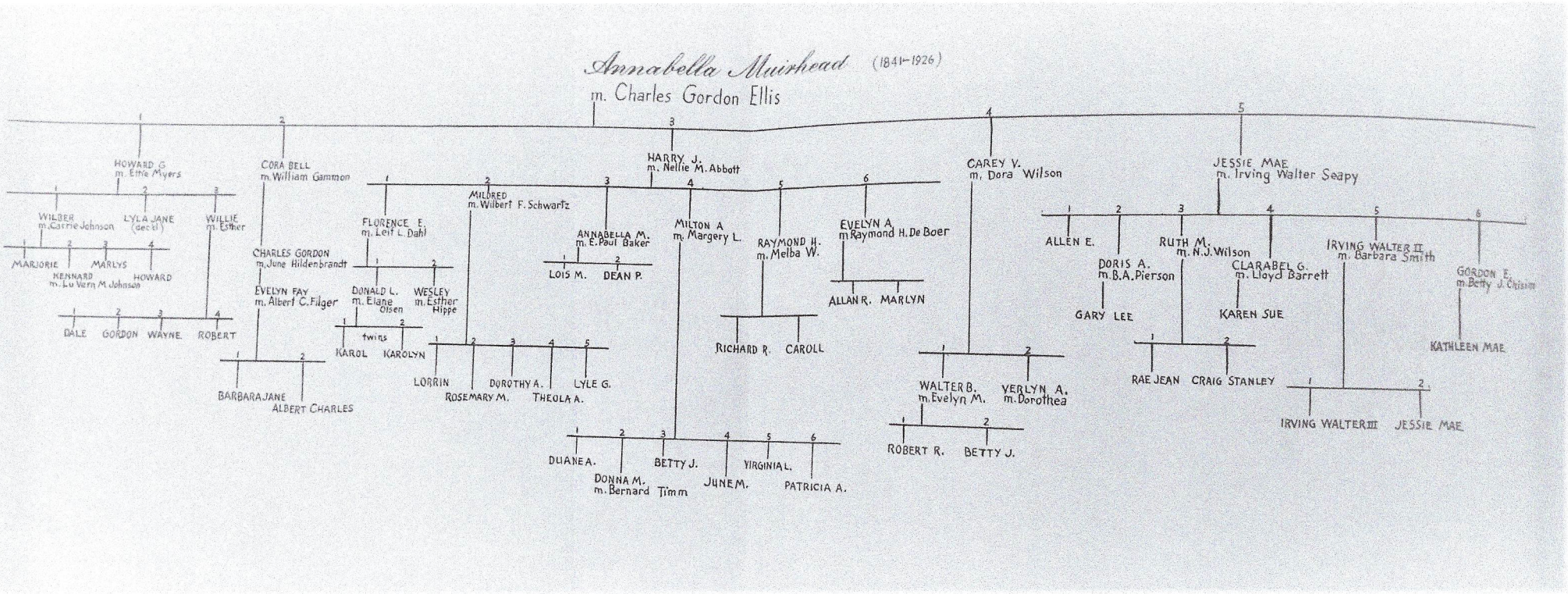
Margaret was educated at New Trier and Lake Forest College. For some time she was employed in the offices of Swift and Company in Chicago. In December 1939, she was married to John Barney of Lake Forest, and they reside in Chicago. They have a daughter, Kathleen, and a son, Frederick -- the youngest descendants of Catherine and William McKenzie.

GEORGE MUIRHEAD JR.

The oldest son of George and Ann Muirhead was born in Glasgow, Scotland, June 8, 1838. His education, which was begun in Scotland, was continued at brief and irregular intervals after he came to America. When his parents set sail for America George was only eleven years of age, but as he was the oldest son much of the responsibility fell upon him. His father's complete inexperience in farming made it necessary for George to take over the management of the farm at an early age. The former's health was rather poor, so for over forty years George was the recognized head of the family. To give many of the important events of George's life would be a repetition of what has been written as George never married and spent all his life with his family working on the farm.

Among the important incidents in George's life two visits which he made to Scotland hold the most interest for us. In August of the year 1882 he left for New York where he embarked on the Star Line for Queenstown, which is near Liverpool. After his arrival in England he went by rail to London and thence to Glasgow where he visited relatives and friends of the family for about six weeks. His primary purpose in going to Scotland was to buy horses, so during his visit in some of the smaller towns near Glasgow, such as Paisley and Gorick, he bought five Clydesdale horses. The horses were shipped by rail from Scotland and sent to Queenstown, where they were loaded on the boat. A cousin, Tom Brown, who at present resides with Mrs. Luella Sherwood in Elgin, returned to America with George. Tom was only a boy of fourteen when he left Scotland. On the return trip storms and seasickness caused the death of all the horses, and so George returned home without the horses. After a short visit with his family and a new supply of funds, he started for Scotland again. On this trip he purchased seven horses. In after years he enjoyed telling of the difficulty they had in putting the horses on the boat at Queenstown. One of the horses was extremely bad-tempered, and George often said it was too bad the horse didn't die on the trip home. Though he did lose one horse on the voyage home, the man - killing horse survived the trip and lived long enough to cause a great deal of trouble. However it was fortunate that horse never did succeed in taking a human life, though he was supposed to have tried to do so often enough. This trip ended George's travels abroad, and he returned to spend the rest of his life quietly in Plato.

During his entire life George was active in church work and was also deeply interested in all community activities. For some years he served as supervisor of Plato Township. During his later years George had a business interest with his brothers in the store at Plato which he sold to his brothers some time before his death. He owned a farm, known as the MacArthur place, two miles west of the old home, and this property, which he left to his brothers and sisters living in this vicinity,has since been sold. After the death of his father, he managed the home place with the help of his brothers, Charles and John, and with Lillie as housekeeper, until he retired in 1906 and Charles took over the place. The rest of his life was spent on the farm where he made his home with Charles and his family. During the last years of his life he told many interesting stories of the early days in America,and it is deeply regretted that so many of the stories he delighted in telling were lost to posterity. He passed away at the old home in September 1915 and was buried beside his parents in the Plato Cemetery.


Annabella Muirhead (1841–1926)
m. Charles Gordon Ellis
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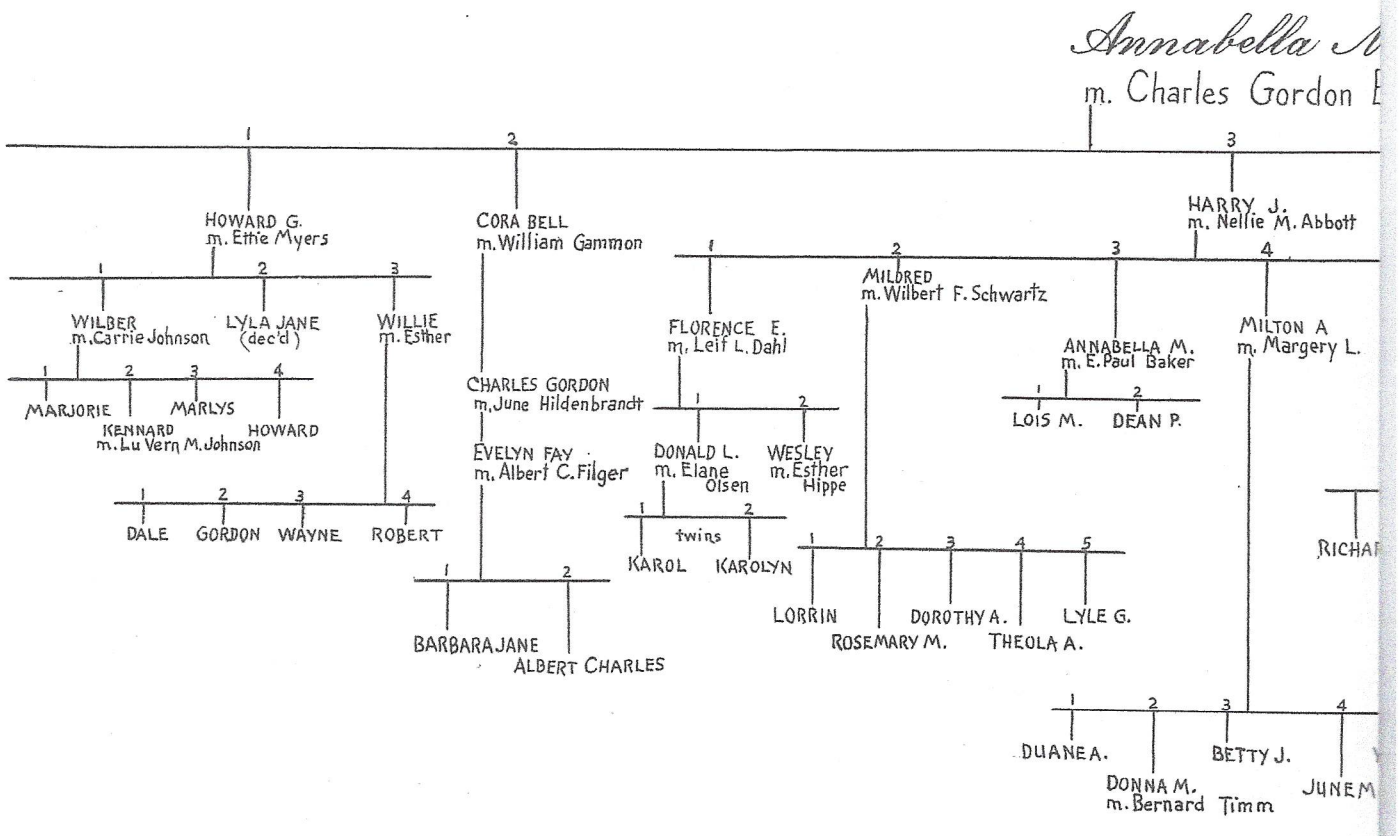
HOWARD G.
m. Effie Myers
WILBER
m. Carrie Johnson
LYLA JANE
(dec'd)
WILLIE
m. Esther
MARJORIE
KENNARD
m. Lu Vern M. Johnson
MARLYS
HOWARD
DALE
GORDON
WAYNE
ROBERT
CORA BELL
m. William Gammon
CHARLES GORDON
m. June Hildenbrandt
EVELYN FAY
m. Albert C. Filger
BARBARA JANE
ALBERT CHARLES
HARRY J.
m. Nellie M. Abbott
FLORENCE E.
m. Leif L. Dahl
DONALD L.
m. Elane Olsen
WESLEY
m. Esther Hippe
twins
KAROL
KAROLYN
MILDRED
m. Wilbert F. Schwartz
LORRIN
ROSEMARY M.
DOROTHY A.
THEOLA A.
LYLE G.
ANNABELLA M.
m. E. Paul Baker
LOIS M.
DEAN P.
MILTON A
m. Margery L.
DUANE A.
DONNA M.
m. Bernard Timm
BETTY J.
JUNE M.
VIRGINIA L.
PATRICIA A.
RAYMOND H.
m. Melba W.
RICHARD R.
CAROLL
EVELYN A
m Raymond H. De Boer
ALLAN R.
MARLYN
CAREY V.
m. Dora Wilson
WALTER B.
m. Evelyn M.
VERLYN A.
m. Dorothea
ROBERT R.
BETTY J.
JESSIE MAE
m. Irving Walter Seapy
ALLEN E.
DORIS A.
m. B. A. Pierson
GARY LEE
RUTH M.
m. N. J. Wilson
RAE JEAN
CRAIG STANLEY
CLARABEL G.
m. Lloyd Barrett
KAREN SUE
IRVING WALTER II
m. Barbara Smith
IRVING WALTER III
JESSIE MAE
GORDON E.
m. Betty J. Chisim
KATHLEEN MAE


Annabella
m. Charles Gordon
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HOWARD G.
m. Ettie Myers
CORA BELL
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HARRY J.
m. Nellie M. Abbott
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WILBER
m. Carrie Johnson
LYLA JANE
(dec'd)
WILLIE
m. Esther
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MARJORIE
KENNARD
m. Lu Vern M. Johnson
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DALE
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ROBERT
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m. June Hildenbrandt
EVELYN FAY
m. Albert C. Filger
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BARBARA JANE
ALBERT CHARLES
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m. Wilbert F. Schwartz
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DONALD L.
m. Elane Olsen
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twins
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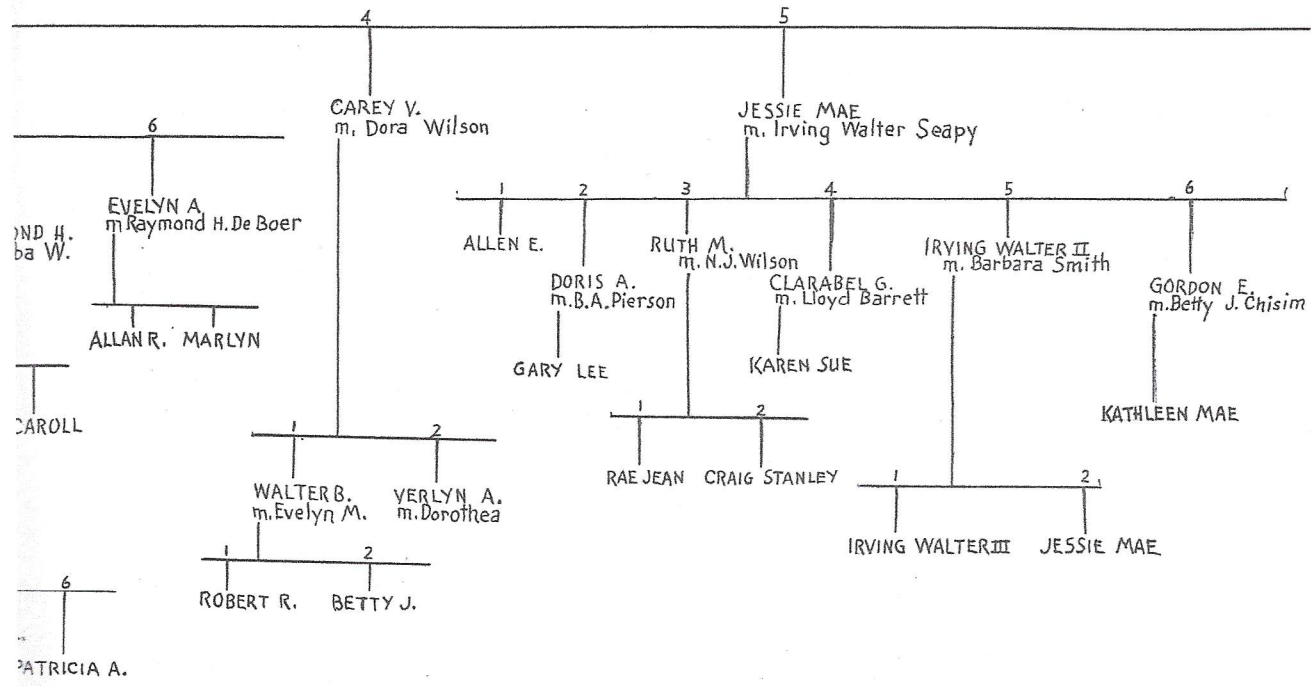
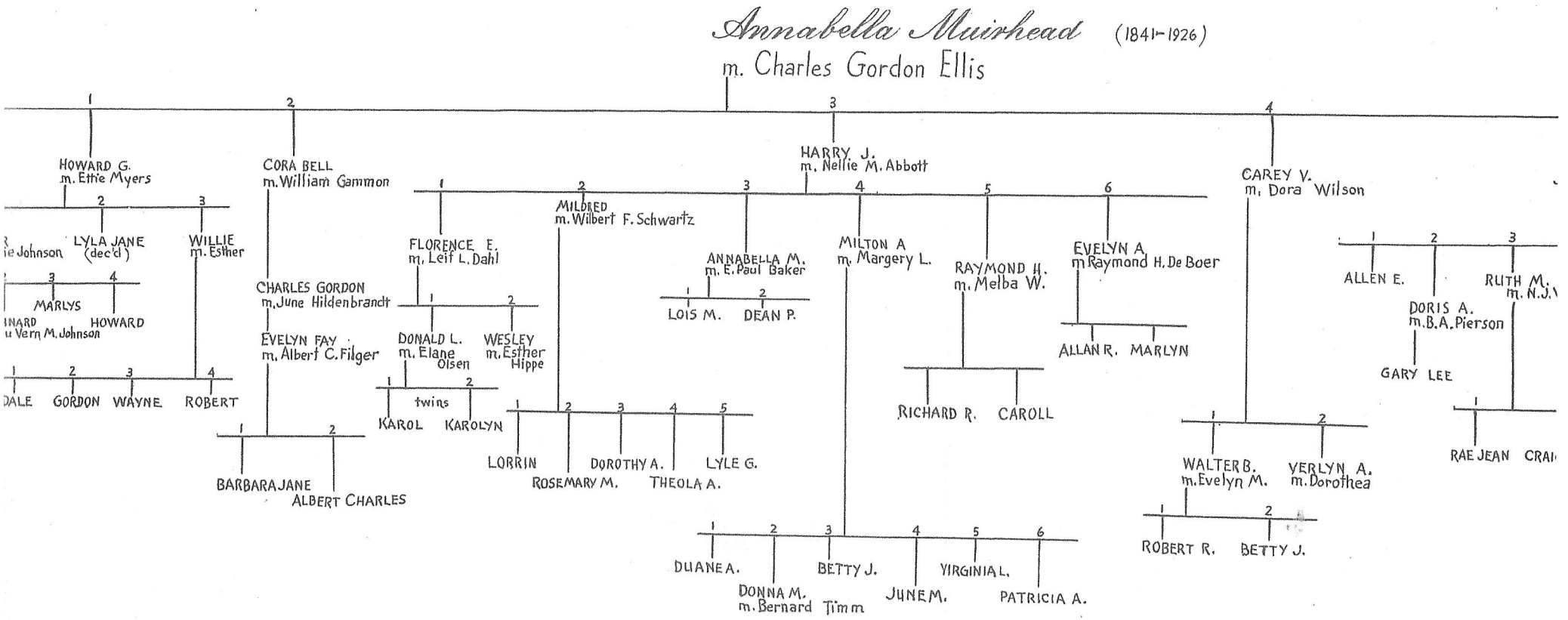
DUANE A.
DONNA M.
m. Bernard Timm
BETTY J.
JUNE M

head (1841-1926)

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m. Dorothea
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ALLEN E.
DORIS A.
m. B. A. Pierson
GARY LEE
RUTH M.
m. N. J.
RAE JEAN

ANNABELLA MUIRHEAD

Annabella Muirhead, the third child of George and Ann Bennie, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, August 5, 1841, and came to America at the age of eight years. During her girlhood in Plato Center she helped with the work at home and also worked for the John S. Lee family south of Plato for two dollars a week. For a short time Ann attended Elgin Academy and worked for her board and room in Udina, staying with a family by the name of Millie. They had three children -- George, John and Jessie Millie -- and in later years Jessie married and lived near Ann in South Dakota. At the time Ann attended the Academy only the basement of the present building had been completed, and it was there Ann attended classes.

On November 21, 1861, Ann married Charles Gordon Ellis, and the couple made their home on a farm south of Plato Center. Here their first child was born. At the age of sixteen months he passed away and was buried in the Plato Center Cemetery. Their second child, Howard, was born April 5, 1865, at Plato Center, and a short time later Ann and Gordon moved to a farm near Newhall, Iowa. It was here that Ann and Gordon's sixteen months' old daughter, Ida, was fatally burned as she crawled behind the stove to get her little kitten. Ann's sister, Nettie, came from Plato Center to stay with them to help and comfort her sister. On November 22, 1869, Cora Bell was born. From the Cedar Rapids area the Ellises moved to Lemar, Iowa, to a Catholic neighborhood. While there the twins, Wilbur and Willie, were born. They lived until they were sixteen months old and then passed away. This third great tragedy in Ann's life was almost too much, but the people of the neighborhood were very kind, and through the years she never forgot their kindness. In 1873 Ann and Gordon, with their family, homesteaded in Delaware Township, Lincoln County, South Dakota. During their early years in South Dakota they suffered the hardships of pioneer life. There was only one house between their farm and Canton, which was twenty miles away. An example of the hardships is revealed in the fact that the early settlers twisted coarse prairie hay to use as fuel for cooking and to keep warm. They would have a nice garden and the grasshoppers would come and take it all in a few hours. They had one horse and a pair of oxen and later were able to get a cow. During this time new families were homesteading and a schoolhouse was built. Ann organized a Sunday School which met in the schoolhouse, and each Sunday she taught a class there. Three more children were born to Ann and Gordon: Harry, Carey and Jessie. In spite of disastrous crop losses from drought and grasshoppers, Ann and Gordon prospered, and in 1905 retired from farming and moved to Canton, where they had built a home. They lived to celebrate their fiftieth and sixtieth wedding anniversaries. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom died in infancy. Through the years Ann was a friend to everyone in the whole countryside, as she never refused help to anyone in time of sickness or trouble, and a doctor was seldom ever called. Gordon passed away in 1922 and Ann, October 31, 1926.

Ann and Gordon's oldest son, Howard, spent his boyhood on farms in Iowa and South Dakota. On May 10, 1885, he married Etta Myers, and they resided on a farm not far from Canton. Howard passed away in 1937. Howard and Etta had three children: Wilbur who now lives at Sebaca, Minnesota; Lila who died at the age of fourteen; and Will who resides at Oaconia, South Dakota. Wilbur married Carrie Johnson, and they have four children: Marjorie, Kennard, Marlys, and Howard.

Kennard married LuVern Johnson on November 27, 1940, and they reside in Centerville, South Dakota. Will, Howard's second son, and his wife, Esther, have four sons: Dale, Gordon, Wayne and Robert.

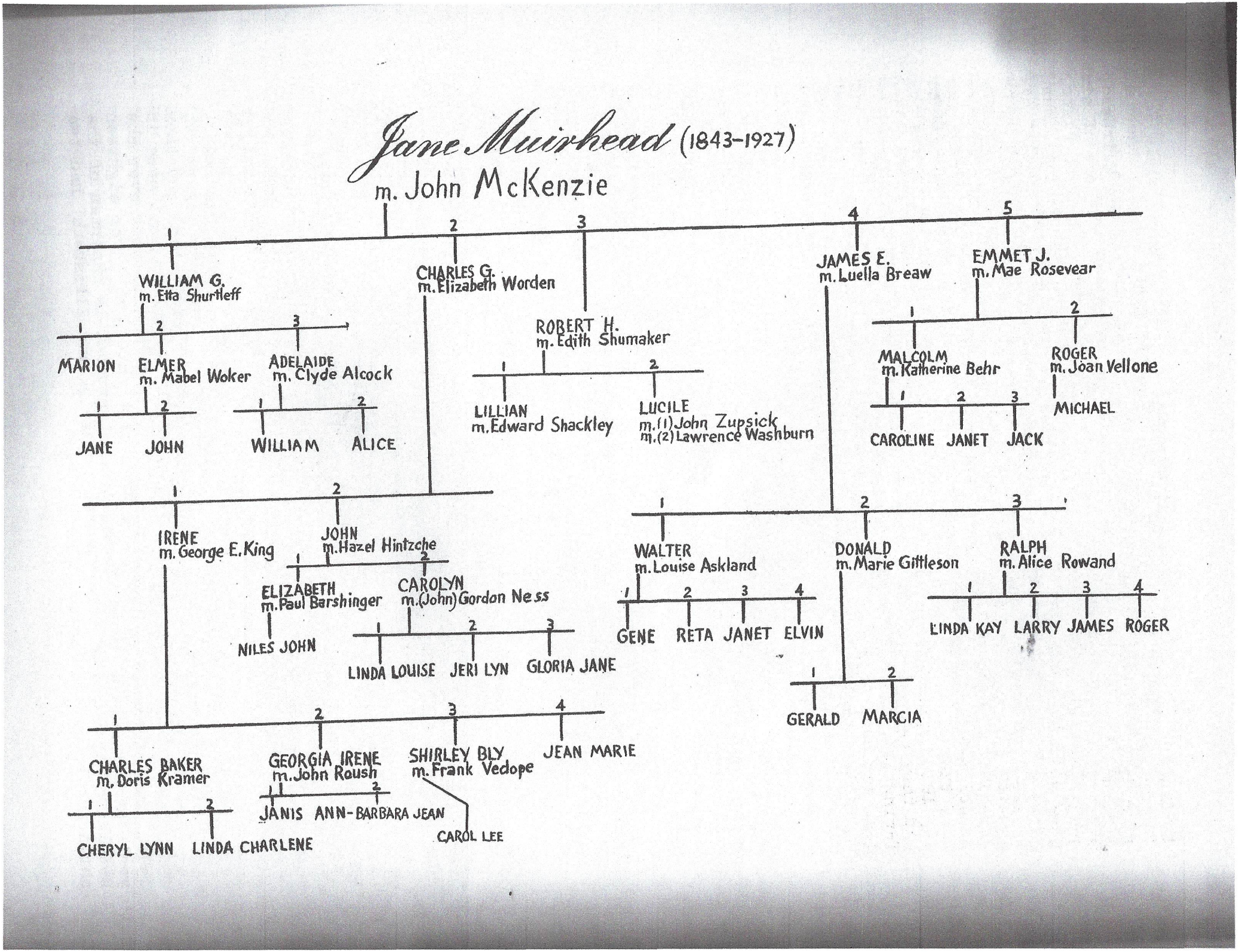
Cora Bell was born in 1869 and in 1890 she married William Gammon, a farmer in South Dakota. In 1898 they moved to Colorado and later to California. William preceded his wife in death, and Cora passed away in June 1950. The only child of Cora and William, Charles, resides in Pasadena, California. He married June Hildenbrandt, and they have a daughter, Evelyn. Evelyn married Albert C. Filger, and they have two children: Barbara and Albert.

Harry Ellis was born in Delaware Township, Lincoln County, South Dakota, on April 28, 1875. On February 22, 1898, he married Nellie Abbott. Harry was a farmer in the Canton area and spent all his life there. He was especially fond of fine horses and raised many fine animals. Harry died in 1939, but his wife still resides in Canton. Harry and Nellie have six children: Florence, Mildred, Annabelle, Milton, Raymond, and Evelyn. Florence was born May 3, 1900 and married Lief Dahl. They have two sons. The older, Donald, married E-Lane Olsen, and they have twin girls, Karol and Karolyn, and live in Minnesota. Wesley married Esther Hippe, and they reside in Edmunds, Washington. Harry and Nellie's second daughter, Mildred, was born February 22, 1903. Since her marriage to Hilbert Schwartz, they have lived on a farm near Canton. The oldest of their five children, Lorrin, graduated from South Dakota State College last year, was called into service in October 1950; Rosemary is a registered nurse; Dorothy attends teachers' college at St. Cloud, Minnesota; Theola is a junior in Canton High; and Lyle is in grade school. Annabelle, Harry and Nellie's third daughter, was born July 16, 1905, and married E. Paul Baker. They run a grocery store in Clarion, Iowa, and are the parents of two children: Lois a sophomore at Iowa State College; and Dean in high school. Harry and Nellie's oldest son, Milton, was born August 1, 1907. He married Marjorie Hicks, and they farm at Elkton, South Dakota. They have six children: Duane attends South Dakota State College; Donna is married to Bernard Timm and resides at Pipestone, Minnesota; Betty, June, Virginia and Patricia are still at home. Raymond Ellis was born February 28, 1914, and now lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is superintendent of soil conservation in seven counties. Raymond and his wife, the former Melba Webster, have two children, Richard and Carol. The youngest child of Harry and Nellie, Evelyn, was born December 5, 1916. She is married to Raymond DeBoer, and they reside at Lowry, Minnesota, with their two children, Allen and Marlys.

Carey V. Ellis, the fourth child of Ann and Gordon, was born in South Dakota, February 28, 1878. Like his brothers he farmed near Canton. Carey and his wife, the former Dora Wilson, had two sons: Walter, born December 27, 1906, married Evelyn Mae Otten, and they have two children, Robert and Betty; Verlyn, born March 22, 1912, married Dorrete Nepp. Both Walter and Verlyn live near Tacoma, Washington.

The youngest member of the Ellis family, Jessie, was born January 22, 1881, and after finishing grade school took a normal course at the Baptist College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On March 18, 1902, Jessie married Irving W. Seapy, whose family had originally emigrated to South Dakota from Plato Center. Jessie and Irving farmed and had a dairy until they moved to Ontario, California, in 1924. They have six children: Allen, Doris, Ruth, Clarabel, Irving, and Gordon. Allen was born January 3, 1906, and graduated from Canton

High School. He moved to California with his parents and worked with his father in the gasoline business. Later he had a cafe at the same place until he joined the Navy in 1942. While in service he spent most of his time in Alaska and was a chief commissary. Allen now owns and operates a cafe at Oakland. Doris Annabell, born July 9, 1908, graduated from Chaffy High School and was married to B.A. Pierson. They have one son, Gary Lee. They own and operate the Rockette Cafe, in Ontario. Ruth Myrtle was born October 19, 1910. After graduating from Chaffy High, she married Noel Wilson, a salesman. They are the parents of two children, Rae Jean and Craig, and reside in Ontario. Clarabell was born April 16, 1913, attended Chaffy High School, married Lloyd Barret, a salesman. With their daughter, Karen Sue, they live at Pomona, California. Irving Jr. was born September 15, 1915. After graduation from Chaffy High he married Barbara Smith and they own and operate a cafe in Pomona. They have two children--Irving III, and Jessie Mae. Irving and Jessie's youngest child, Gordon, was born in Ontario, December 6, 1924. Like his brother and sisters, he attended Chaffy High. With his wife, the former Betty Jean Chism, he operates a chicken ranch near Ontario, and they have one daughter, Kathleen.


Jane Muirhead (1843-1927)
m. John McKenzie
1
WILLIAM G.
m. Etta Shurtleff
1
MARION
2
ELMER
m. Mabel Woker
1
JANE
2
JOHN
3
ADELAIDE
m. Clyde Alcock
1
WILLIAM
2
ALICE
2
CHARLES G.
m. Elizabeth Worden
1
IRENE
m. George E. King
2
JOHN
m. Hazel Hintzche
1
ELIZABETH
m. Paul Barshinger
NILES JOHN
2
CAROLYN
m. (John) Gordon Ness
1
LINDA LOUISE
2
JERI LYN
3
GLORIA JANE
3
ROBERT H.
m. Edith Shumaker
1
LILLIAN
m. Edward Shackley
2
LUCILE
m. (1) John Zupsick
m. (2) Lawrence Washburn
4
JAMES E.
m. Luella Breaw
1
WALTER
m. Louise Askland
1
GENE
2
RETA
3
JANET
4
ELVIN
2
DONALD
m. Marie Gittleson
1
GERALD
2
MARCIA
5
EMMET J.
m. Mae Rosevear
1
MALCOLM
m. Katherine Behr
1
CAROLINE
2
JANET
3
JACK
2
ROGER
m. Joan Vellone
MICHAEL
3
RALPH
m. Alice Rowand
1
LINDA KAY
2
LARRY
3
JAMES
4
ROGER
1
CHARLES BAKER
m. Doris Kramer
1
CHERYL LYNN
2
LINDA CHARLENE
2
GEORGIA IRENE
m. John Roush
1
JANIS ANN
2
BARBARA JEAN
3
SHIRLEY BLY
m. Frank Vedope
CAROL LEE
4
JEAN MARIE

JANE MUIRHEAD

Jane Muirhead, the youngest child of George and Ann Muirhead, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, November 27, 1843. At the age of six she came to America with her family. She attended school at Plato, and afterward worked in various homes in the Plato Center area. When she was not employed elsewhere, she helped at home with farm duties.

In 1866 Jane married John McKenzie of South Grove, DeKalb County. He was the brother of William, who had married Jane's sister, Catherine. John had been the first of the McKenzie family to come to the United States. He arrived in New York in 1853 and worked for a year on a farm in Connecticut. In the spring of 1854 he came to Illinois, traveling by railroad as far west as DeKalb, which was the end of the Northwestern line. He purchased land in South Grove Township and started farming, and it was there he and Jane began their married life. Their five sons, William, Charles, Robert, James and Emmet, were all born on this farm. In 1900 Jane and John retired from farming and moved to Esmond, where they had built a home. In 1911 John passed away, and Jane continued to live in the home with her grand-daughter, Lucile, until 1923 when she went to live with James; in 1926 she moved to DeKalb to live with Robert. Except for being somewhat deaf for many years, Jane enjoyed good health until the time of her death in 1927. She and John were buried in the Creston Cemetery.

The oldest son of Jane and John, William, was born April 23, 1867, and attended the rural school near his home. Later he took a course at the Business College at Dixon. In 1896 he married Sarah Etta Shurtleff, and they lived in Esmond, where William operated a store. Later he became the telephone operator for the community and served in this capacity until the advent of the dial telephone. For fifteen years he served as supervisor of South Grove Township. Etta passed away in 1941, and William died in 1950.

Marion, the oldest in William and Etta's family, attended grade school in Esmond, Sycamore High School and graduated from Northwestern University. Later she received her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. She taught school in Centralia for a few years before going to the Roycemore Girls' School in Evanston where she still teaches.

William's only son, Elmer, attended school in Esmond, and then went to work for the Chicago Great Western Railroad in an electrical capacity. Later he became an electrician for the Northern Illinois Utilities Company. He married Mabel Woker, and they made their home in Pearl City. Elmer passed away in 1946. Their only son, John, resides with his mother in Pearl City, and their daughter, Jane, has just completed nurses' training in Evanston.

The youngest child of William and Etta, Adelaide, also attended the local schools and Northwestern University. After graduation she was a secretary for the Vose and Lind law firm in Chicago for five years. In 1935 she married Clyde Alcock and moved to a farm near Lindenwood, Illinois. They have two children: William and Alice.

Charles, the second son of Jane and John, was born August 27, 1870. He also attended Business College at Dixon for a time and then became a farmer. He married Elizabeth Worden, who passed away in 1925. Charles retired from active farming when his son took over the farm, but continued to make his home with his son. For eighteen years he has served as supervisor and at present is chairman of the DeKalb County Board of Supervisors. Charles and Elizabeth had two children: Irene and John.

Irene attended the local schools and graduated from Northern Illinois State Normal School, after which she taught school in Moline and Cicero. Since her marriage to George E. King, she has lived in Hobart, Indiana, near Gary, where her husband is foreman in one of the steel mills. Irene and George have four children: Charles married Doris Kramer, and they have two children, Cheryl and Linda, and reside in Hobart; Georgia married John Roush and lives in Indianapolis with their two daughters, Janis and Barbara; Shirley married Frank Vedope, and they have one daughter, Carol Lee, born June 1, 1951, and make their home in Hobart; and the youngest child, Jean, lives at home and is employed as a secretary.

After John finished school he returned to work on the farm with his father. He married Hazel Hintzche, and they remained on the farm until a few years ago when they moved to Sycamore, where John is employed by a farm implement company. Their two daughters, Elizabeth and Carolyn, both attended the Rochelle schools and the DeKalb State Teachers' College. Elizabeth taught for a time and then married Paul Barshinger. They live in DeKalb and have one son, Niles. Carolyn married Gordon Ness, a farmer near DeKalb, and they have three daughters: Linda, Jeri and Gloria.

Robert McKenzie was born June 4, 1874. In 1900 he married Edith Shumaker, who passed away in 1908, when their younger child was born. When his parents retired Robert took over the management of the farm and continued farming until 1924 when he moved to DeKalb and became a dealer in antiques. Robert's two daughters attended both high school and college in DeKalb. Lillian taught in DeKalb, Aurora and Chicago and received her M.A. from Lewis Institute in Chicago. At the time of her death in a tragic automobile accident in Wisconsin in 1934, she was teaching in Chicago. Lucile, the younger daughter, was brought up by her grandmother and spent her early life in Esmond. After graduation from college she married John Zupcich, from whom she was later divorced. She then married Lawrence Washburn, and they reside in Cooley, Washington, where he is employed by the government in a geological survey.

James was born February 25, 1880. He helped with the work on the farm until he began farming for himself. In 1902 he married Luella Breaw, and the couple have three sons: Walter, Donald and Ralph. In 1935 James and Luella retired from farming and moved to DeKalb, where they have continued to lead active lives.

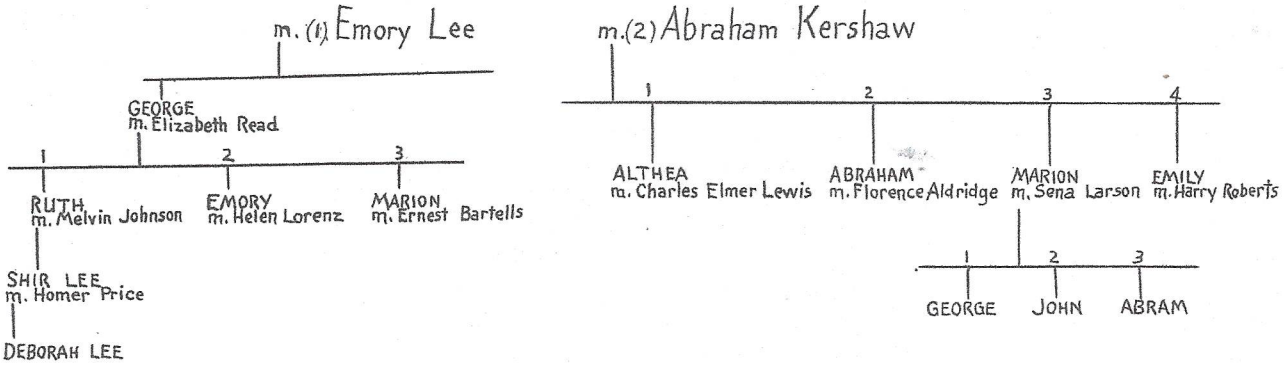
Walter, like his father before him, attended the South Grove rural school and then returned to work on the farm. In 1931 he married Louise Askland, and they farmed in the Malta area until they moved to Elburn a few years ago. Their oldest son, Gene, attends Blackburn College, while Reta, Janet, and Elvin attend the Elburn schools. Donald helped his parents on the farm until his marriage to Marie Gittleson in 1935, when his folks retired, and he took over the farm. Donald and Marie have two children: Gerald and Marcia. The youngest son, Ralph, graduated from DeKalb High School and the University of Illinois. For a time he worked with the Extension Department of the University of Illinois and a little later as an assistant farm advisor. In 1939 he married Alice Rowand, whom he met at the University of Illinois. Ralph and Alice moved to a farm west of Elgin several years ago and have developed a big poultry business. They have four children: Linda, Larry, James and Roger.

The youngest son of Jane and John, Emmet, was born July 6, 1884 and attended Sycamore High School. In 1910 he began business in Esmond. In 1912 he married Mae Rosevear, who had come to Esmond with

Reverend Crocker, her brother-in-law, and worked in the telephone office before her marriage. In 1918 Emmet and Mae moved to Geneseo, Illinois, where they opened a variety store. They had two sons: Malcolm and Roger, but in 1925 Mae passed away. Two years later Emmet married Amelia Crocker. Some years later Emmet went to California to live, but in 1941 he returned to Geneseo, where he made his home with Malcolm and his family until his death in 1948.

Malcolm attended the Geneseo schools and then went into business with his father. He married Kathryn Behr, and they have three children: Caroline, Janet and Jack. Aside from a short time spent in California, Malcolm and Kay have made their home in Geneseo. Recently Malcolm sold his business and is now a farmer in that vicinity. Roger attended the Geneseo schools and, with his father, moved to California where he still lives. For a time he operated a store but now is in the real estate business. He married Joan Vellone, and they have one son, Michael.

Emily Elizabeth Muirhead (1850-1903)



Emily Elizabeth, the oldest daughter of George and Mary Muirhead and the first of the Muirheads to be born in America, was born November 4, 1850, on the farm which her parents had bought from Thomas Baldwin. Emily was named after Mrs. Baldwin. She attended the country school and Elgin Academy and later taught school in North Plato.

On November 11, 1869, Emily married Emory Lee. They resided on a farm at North Plato, where their two sons, George and Freddie, were born. In 1874 Emory and Freddie, the latter only twenty-two months old, died of scarlet fever. The surviving son, George, was born August 13, 1870, and attended school at Plato and Elgin Academy. After finishing school he went to work for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. In September 1898 he married Elizabeth Read, and they made their home in West Chicago. Three children -- Ruth, Emory and Marion -- were born to the couple. On September 17, 1911, George lost his life in a tragic railroad accident, just two months before his youngest child was born. George's widow, Elizabeth, passed away May 30, 1951, at the age of eighty years. Ruth, George and Elizabeth's oldest child, was born November 2, 1901, and married Melvin Johnson, October 3, 1923. They make their home in Elgin and have one daughter, Shir Lee. Ruth is employed by the Joseph Spiess Company, while Melvin is in the automobile business. Shir Lee married Homer Price of Elgin, November 2, 1948, and they have a daughter, Deborah Lee, born September 24, 1950. Emory, the only son of George and Elizabeth, was born December 31, 1902, and married Helen Lorenz in 1928. Emory is employed at the Elgin National Watch Company as the chief designer of the dial. Emory and Helen also make their home in Elgin. George and Elizabeth's youngest child, Marion, was born December 18, 1911. On March 18, 1950, she married Ernest Bartells, and they reside in Elgin and both are employed in the Watch Factory.

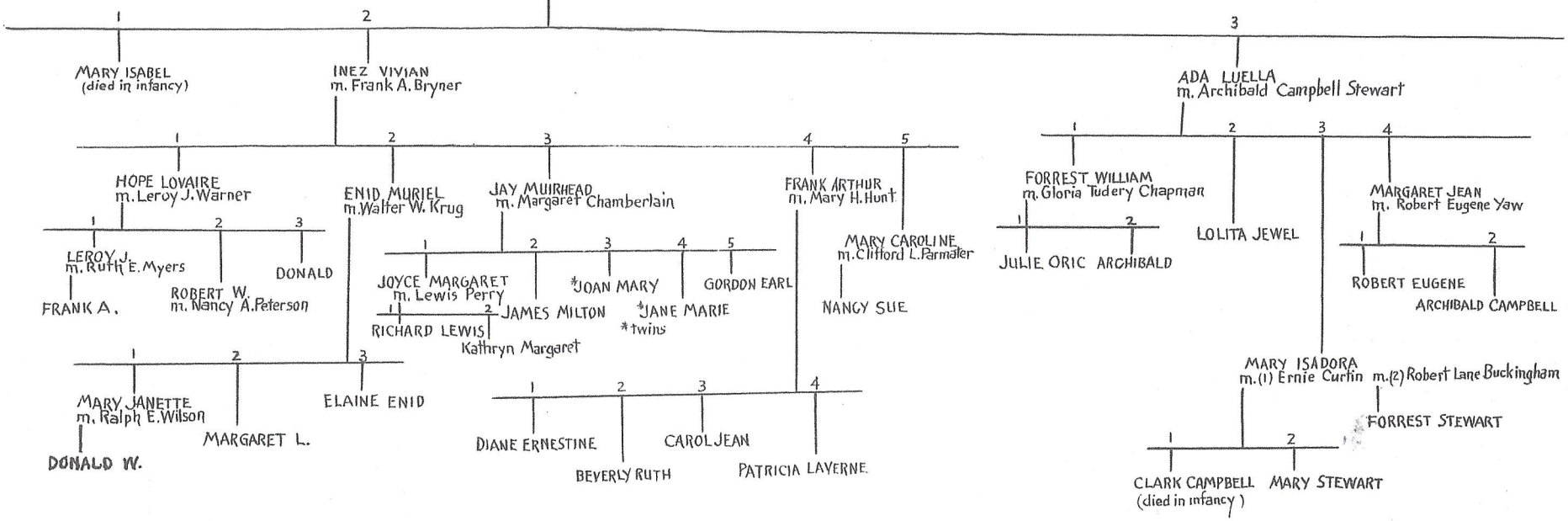
After Emily lost her husband and son, she and George made their home with her parents for several years. On January 22, 1880, she married Abraham Kershaw of Wayne, a breeder of shorthorn cattle. Abraham was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, July 10, 1821, and came to St. Charles in 1838. His father had been smuggled into the country from England in 1818. Emily and Abraham had four children: Althea, Abraham Jr., Marion and Emily. In 1894 Abraham passed away, and Emily lived with her children at the old Kershaw home near Wayne until her death March 7, 1903.

Althea, the oldest of Emily and Abraham's family, was born November 1, 1880. After attending the country school, Althea went to the Elgin Academy. On February 27, 1905, she married Charles Elmer

Lewis, and they reside in Elgin. Her husband works as a painter and decorator. Abraham Jr. was born June 15, 1882, and married Florence Aldridge, November 14, 1903. The following year, September 27, 1904, Abraham died of appendicitis. Marion was born January 2, 1891, and still lives on the home farm. He married Sena Larson of Decorah, Iowa, and they have three sons -- George, John and Abram. George was born November 3, 1918. After attending the country school he returned to help his father on the farm for several years. At present he is employed in Chicago. John was born March 30, 1925. He attended the local schools and graduated from Elgin High in 1945. After graduation he was employed as a chef. On June 10, 1949, John enlisted in the Navy and is now aboard the battleship, U.S.S. Albany. Abram, the youngest son of Marion and Sena, was born April 10, 1927. After finishing school he returned to the farm and still lives there with his parents. The youngest child of Abraham and Emily, Emily, was born August 8, 1892. She attended Elgin Academy, and on November 6, 1916, she married Harry Roberts. Emily and Harry made their home in Chicago until Emily's untimely death, February 20, 1919.

Mary Jeanette Muirhead (1852–1938)

m.(1) William A. Tanner m.(2) Bruner L. Groff



MARY JANETTE MUIRHEAD

Mary Janette, the second child of George and Mary Muirhead, was born September 20, 1852, east of Plato Center. With Emily, her older sister, Nettie (as she was always called) attended Elgin Academy for a time and worked for her board and room while there. In the fall of 1868 Nettie left the home of her parents to go to Newhall, Iowa, to help her sister, Ann Ellis. Nettie remained in Iowa, and after passing the teachers' examinations, she taught school in the Doolittle School near the Ellis home. Here she met William Tanner, who was one of the directors in her school. William had come to Iowa in 1856 from Williams County, Ohio, when he was fourteen years old. With his parents, two brothers and a sister, he came by covered wagon, fording rivers and streams, and settled twenty miles west of Cedar Rapids on land bought from the government at five dollars an acre. The Tanners had the first postoffice, known as William's Postoffice, and received their mail by stagecoach. After a few years the family moved to a farm two and a half miles south of Newhall. William had originally studied to be a lawyer, but had returned to the farm to help his father. Nettie and William's acquaintance ripened into love, and they were married Christmas Eve, 1869. Nettie's parents and young brother Charles went west for the wedding. A year later, December 15, 1870, a little daughter was born and was named Mary Isbel for her two grandmothers, but she was called Little Dolly. She lived only eight months, and Nettie, who had never fully recovered after the birth of the baby, suffered a severe shock when the baby died. Consequently William decided a change of climate would help her, so the young couple spent fourteen months in Denver and Georgetown, Colorado. After their return to Iowa, Nettie and William made their home with the latter's parents. On January 30, 1877, their second daughter, Inez Vivian, was born, and two and a half years later Ada Luella was born. The happiness of the family was broken by the tragic death by drowning of the father on September 25, 1880. Nettie's sister, Luella, had been visiting in the Tanner home, and William took her to the train at Norway. As he was returning home, the rain which had been falling all day became a cloudburst. About a mile north of Norway he had to cross a mud creek, and the roadbed and bridge were deep under water. William and a Mr. Ellingson and their teams were washed off the bridge and all drowned. William's body was swept downstream and was not recovered until the next day. He was laid to rest in Mound Cemetery, four miles from his home. Nettie and her two daughters continued to make their home with William's parents, and the girls attended the country school where their parents had taught. In 1891 Nettie and her daughters moved to Blairstown, Iowa, and in October Nettie married Bruner Groff. In 1892 they moved back to the farm near Newhall, where they lived until 1896. They then moved to the town of Newhall, where Bruner owned a butcher shop and bought and sold livestock. Later he sold this business and worked in a grain elevator. In 1920 Nettie and Bruner moved to Cedar Rapids, where they spent the rest of their lives. Bruner died suddenly June 8, 1933, and Nettie passed away March 1, 1938, after a long illness.

Inez, the second daughter of Nettie and William, was born near Newhall. After attending the Doolittle School, Inez was graduated from the Blairstown High School and later attended Tilford Academy at Vinton. Inez taught school for three years, the last two of those years being spent in the same school where her parents had taught.

On January 1, 1900, she married Frank A. Bryner of Urbana, Iowa, at the family home in Newhall, and went to live in Urbana. After three years they moved back to the farm where Inez had been born and later lived in Kansas and Wisconsin. Inez moved back to Iowa with Arthur Jr. and Mary in 1926 and has made her home in Cedar Rapids ever since.

Hope, the oldest child of Inez and Frank, was born February 10, 1901, in Benton County, Iowa. After graduating from the Stephenson Training School for Teachers at Marinette, Wisconsin, Hope taught school for three years. In August 1923 at Iron Mountain, Michigan, Hope married LeRoy Warner, a veteran of World War I. LeRoy passed away September 4, 1949, and Hope resides near Seattle, Washington. Hope and LeRoy's oldest son, LeRoy Jr., was born December 26, 1925. During World War II he served in the army, and in 1947 he married Ruth Myers in Los Angeles. LeRoy, or Bud, as he is commonly called, and Ruth have one son, Frank, born March 23, 1949. Hope and LeRoy's second son, Frank, was born December 20, 1927, in Cedar Rapids. He served in the Navy during World War II, and is now in the Korean War with the Navy in Japanese waters. In 1949 Frank married Nancy Peterson in King County, Washington. Donald, the youngest son of Hope and LeRoy, was born November 7, 1929, in Anacortes, Washington, and is now with the Air Force in Germany.

Inez and Frank's second daughter, Enid, was born June 8, 1903. She attended grade school in Kansas and Iowa and graduated from Washington High School in Cedar Rapids. Before her marriage to Walter Krug in 1925, Enid taught school for two years. They reside on a farm near Atkins, Iowa, and have three daughters: Mary Janette, born June 13, 1927, graduated from nurses' training at St.Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids in 1948, married Ralph Wilson in 1948, and they have one son, Donald William, born March 11, 1951; Margaret, born May 14, 1931, attends Iowa State College at Ames; and Elaine, born July 30, 1935, is still in high school.

Jay Muirhead Bryner, the oldest son of Inez and Frank, was born May 31, 1907, in Saline County, Kansas. After leaving school he worked at home on the farm until he obtained employment with the Kimberley Clark Paper Company, with whom he is still associated twenty-five years later. His marriage to Margaret Chamberlain was solemnized at Iron Mountain, Michigan, in 1929. They reside in Niagara, Wisconsin, and have a summer home on a lake ten miles from Niagara. They have five children: Joyce, born September 4, 1930, married Lewis Perry, and they have a son Richard, born June 27, 1949, and a daughter, Kathryn Margaret, born August 15, 1950, in Milwaukee; James was born September 2, 1933; Joan and Jane, twins, October 23, 1934; and Gordon, April 13, 1940.

Frank Arthur was born November 15, 1909, and was educated in the Cedar Rapids schools. He enlisted in the regular army for three years and was stationed at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. In 1933 he married Mary Hunt in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and they went to live in Salt Lake City, Utah. During World War II he went to Seattle, Washington, where he is employed by the Boeing Airplane Company. They have four daughters: Diane, born June 27, 1936; Beverly, July 16, 1938; Carol, October 19, 1942; and Patricia, September 25, 1947.

Mary, the youngest in Inez and Frank's family, was born December 22, 1914, in Union County, Iowa. After graduating from Grant High School, Mary worked for eleven years at the Quaker Oats Company, where she started as a factory worker and rose to the position of secretary to a department head. On May 31, 1946, she married Clifford Parmater, who had just returned after serving two and a half

years in the South Pacific and the Philippines. They have one daughter, Nancy Sue, born April 21, 1947.

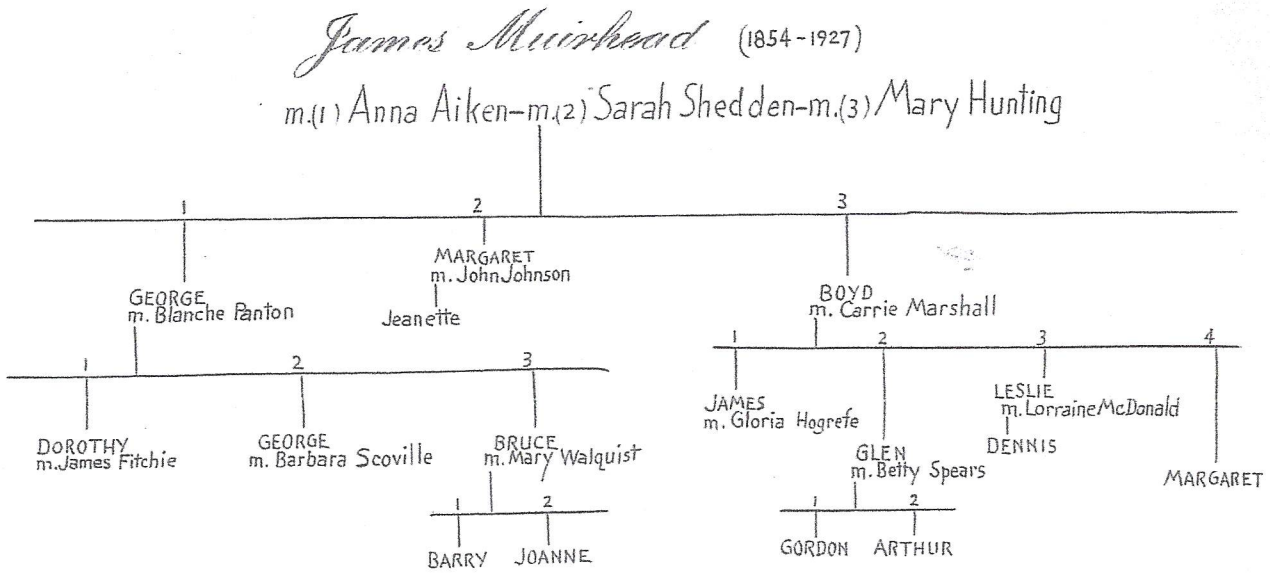
Ada, the youngest daughter of Nettie and William, was born July 8, 1879, near Newhall. Like her sister, she attended the school in which her parents had taught and Tilford Academy at Vinton, Iowa. On January 24, 1900, she married Archibald Campbell Stewart at her mother's home, and the young couple went to Atkins to make their home. Their honeymoon was from Newhall to Atkins, a distance of six miles, with horse and buggy over frozen, rough roads. Arch was in the cheese business at the time of their marriage and later was in the furniture and undertaking business. In 1907 Ada and Arch moved to Cedar Rapids, where they still reside. In 1908 he started the business he is still engaged in, the Souvenir Lead Pencil Company.

Forrest, the oldest son of Ada and Arch, was born July 24, 1901, in Atkins. After his graduation from Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1923, Forrest lived in New York for four years. His marriage to Gloria Chapman of New Orleans took place at Cedar Rapids, March 19, 1930. Forrest is associated with his father in business, and they reside in Cedar Rapids. They have two children: Julie, born November 17, 1944, and Archibald, February 17, 1951.

Lolita, Ada and Arch's second child, was born August 20, 1905, in Atkins and passed away May 12, 1916 at Waukeshaw, Wisconsin.

Mary was born July 7, 1907, at Atkins. She graduated from Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Illinois, and the Commonwealth School in New York and spent three years in New York. On November 10, 1932, she married Ernie Curtin. Their daughter, Mary Caye, was born May 6, 1938. In 1942 Mary and Ernie were divorced, and in 1944 she married Robert Buckingham, who is vice-president of the Iowa Railroad and Light Company. They have one son, Forrest, born February 5, 1945. In 1950 Robert adopted Mary Caye. Mary and Robert and their family also reside in Cedar Rapids.

Ada and Arch's youngest child, Margaret Jean, was born May 14, 1920, in Cedar Rapids. Margaret graduated from Ferry Hall and Monticello College at Alton, Illinois, and in 1941 she married Robert Yaw. After their marriage Robert served a year and a half in the South Pacific, and is now associated with Arch and Forrest in the pencil business. Peggy and Bob make their home in Cedar Rapids with their two sons: Robert Jr., born June 11, 1946; and Campbell, December 10, 1949.



James Muirhead was born in Plato Township in 1854 on the first farm on which the Muirheads lived when they came to Illinois. As a young man he married Anna Aiken, and after her death he married Sarah A. Shedden, also a life-long resident of Plato, in 1882. Together they farmed for a while near Plato Center and later ran a general store in the village.

To this family four children were born: George, Margaret, Boyd and Jane Irene, the latter passing away in infancy. In 1912 after some years of ill health, Sarah Muirhead passed away in her new home in Plato Center. Some years later James married Mary Hunting, whose parents were pioneers of McLean County, Illinois. James then built a home in Elgin, and he resided there the rest of his life. He passed away in 1927 and was buried in the Plato Center Cemetery. His wife is still living and resides with a sister in Boise, Idaho.

The oldest son of James and Sarah Muirhead was born in Plato Center, March 17, 1883. Named for his paternal grandfather, George attended grade school in Plato and later attended Elgin Academy, where he met Blanche Panton of South Elgin. They were married June 23, 1906, and went to Chicago to live. However in 1910 George became associated with his father in the store, and the young couple moved into the living quarters over the store. Some years later they built their own home in Plato, where Blanche still lives. During World War I George served in France as a Y.M.C.A. recreational director. Until his death March 17, 1947, he was active in all phases of community life in Plato. George and Blanche are the parents of three children: Dorothy, George Jr. and Bruce.

Dorothy was born in South Elgin July 27, 1910, and attended the Plato schools and the University of Illinois. After graduation she taught physical education at Monticello and later at Lake Forest. While at the University of Illinois she became engaged to James Fitchie of Chicago, and they were married June 25, 1938. Since her marriage Dorothy and Jim have lived in Michigan City, Indiana; Spokane, Washington; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and they now reside in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

George was born in Plato April 4, 1913. After attending school at Plato and the University of Illinois, he returned to Plato to work with his father in the store. On March 20, 1937, he married Barbara Scoville of Chicago, and they built a home in Elgin where they lived

for several years. Later they moved to Denver where they now reside.

Bruce attended school in Plato and St. John's Military Academy, and then served as a bomber pilot in World War II. On September 5, 1943, he married Mary Walquist of Burlingame, Kansas. After returning from service he enrolled at the University of Illinois. Following his graduation he entered the service of the American Airlines at Denver, Colorado. Recently he was called back into service and is now stationed at Lowry Field, Denver. Bruce and Mary have two children: Barry, born April 15, 1945; and Joanne, April 10, 1949.

The only daughter of James and Sarah Muirhead, Margaret, was born in Plato, May 16, 1887. She attended the Plato Grade School and Elgin Academy. On May 24, 1911, she married John Johnson, and during the early years of their marriage they resided in Elgin. Later they moved to Warren, Minnesota, where they lived for several years. They returned to Plato in 1927 and built a home there. John drives a milk truck, and they still live in Plato. Their only child, Sarah Jeanette, was born in Elgin, October 26, 1914. She was educated in the Warren and Plato schools and received her degree from the DeKalb State Teachers' College in 1938. She accepted a position in Oak Park that fall and taught in the same school until her untimely death in 1943. She was interred in the Plato Center Cemetery.

The youngest child of James and Sarah Muirhead, James Boyd, was born November 16, 1892, and spent most of his life on the farm near Plato. He graduated from Elgin Academy and also attended the University of Wisconsin for a short time. On January 28, 1914 he married Carrie Marshall, who also lived near Plato. Martin and Emma Marshall, parents of Carrie, were both born in Germany and farmed in the Plato Center area most of their lives. To Boyd and Carrie four children were born: James, Glenn, Leslie and Margaret. Boyd and Carrie moved to Elgin in 1945, and Glenn and Leslie took over the farm. Boyd continues to help the boys on the farm, and he and Carrie are very active in the Presbyterian Church in Elgin.

James, born December 8, 1916, and educated in the Plato schools, was called to the service of his country in World War II and spent almost five years in the U.S. Army. After his return from service he married Gloria Hogrefe on September 7, 1946. After graduating from the Chicago Technical College he entered the electrical field and is now employed in Elgin.

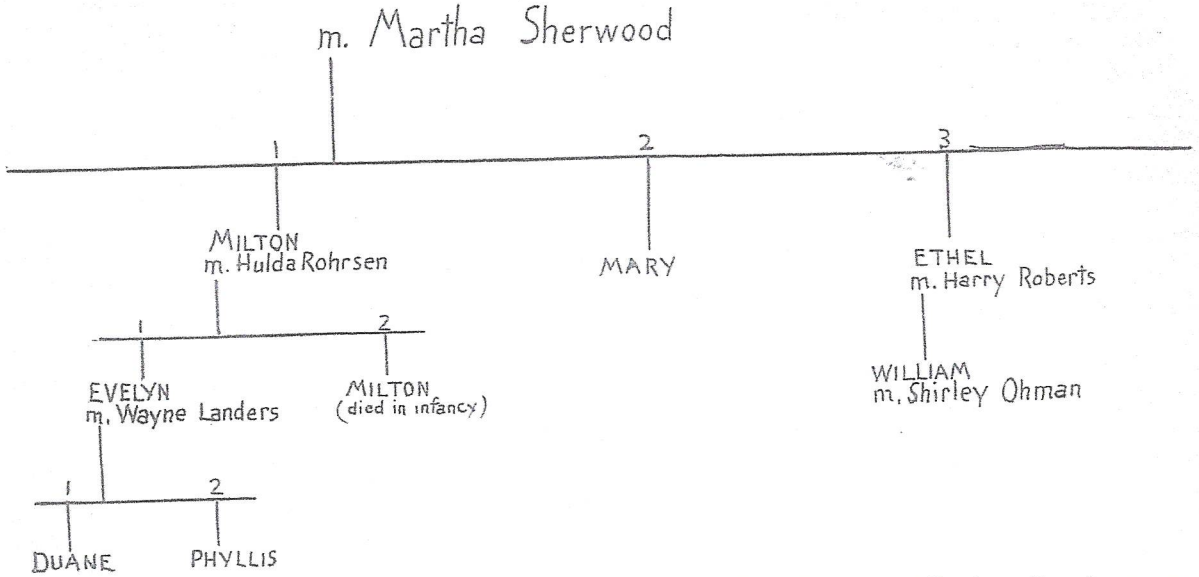
On March 25, 1920, Glenn was born. He graduated from Plato High School and then went to work with his father on the farm. On March 13, 1944, Glenn married Elizabeth Spears of Peoria, who taught in Plato High before her marriage. Glenn and Betty reside on the home farm and have two children: Gordon, born December 4, 1945; and Arthur, October 29, 1948.

Leslie Gordon, third son of Boyd and Carrie, was born September 7, 1921. After graduating from Plato he attended the University of Illinois for one year and returned to help his father and brothers on the farm. On October 27, 1946, he married Lorraine McDonald, whose parents were early settlers in Plato Township. Lorraine and Leslie built a new home on a farm west of the home place and Leslie and Glenn run the two farms together. Lorraine and Leslie have one son, Dennis Leslie, born January 23, 1951.

Margaret, the only daughter of Boyd and Carrie, was born October 30, 1923. Like her brothers, she graduated from Plato High School, and when her parents moved to Elgin she went with them. She is employed by the Brethren Publishing Company and makes her home with her parents in Elgin.

William Muirhead (1857-1939)

m. Martha Sherwood



William Muirhead was born June 15, 1857, at Plato Center on the farm his father purchased when he came from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1849. William attended school at Plato Center and the Elgin Academy. He went with his family to the church at North Plato and later to the Methodist Church in Plato. He joined the Methodist Church and was always interested and active in the affairs of the church.

William left home at an early age to work in the Springbrook Creamery for Newman and Thompson. In 1878 he was employed to make butter for Potter and Barker at LaFox, Illinois. His family have in their possession a letter from Potter and Barker recommending him to Mitchell and Griffeth of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, as the best butter maker they had ever employed. Through their recommendation he obtained a job with Mitchell and Griffeth as manager of their creamery, where he remained for several years. He took pride in telling that his butter was served to President Grant at some state function in Chicago. He also spent some time working in Nebraska.

He was married in 1884 to Martha Sherwood of Elk Grove, California. Martha had emigrated with her family in 1861 by covered wagon from Illinois to California. Their courtship took place when she returned to Illinois to visit her grandparents and other relatives. For three years after their marriage William managed the creamery at Plato Center for John Newman of Elgin. He then moved to the farm one mile west of Plato Center, where he lived until he retired in 1912. His son, Milton, and his wife remained on the farm. William and Martha, with their daughters, Mary and Ethel, moved to their new home at 55 Hamilton Avenue, Elgin. Even after William's retirement from the farm he could never be called a gentleman farmer. He was always on hand when there were extra things to be done, and his interest in the people and the community in which he had spent so much time never lessened. Soon after coming to Elgin he became associated with the Elgin National Bank as its vice-president, and two years later upon the death of Mr. Delbert Wood, he became president and served in that capacity until a few months before his death, October 5, 1939. His wife preceded him in death, passing away September 16, 1932, after a lingering illness.

Milton William, the oldest child of William and Martha, was born April 23, 1886, at Plato Center. After finishing school at

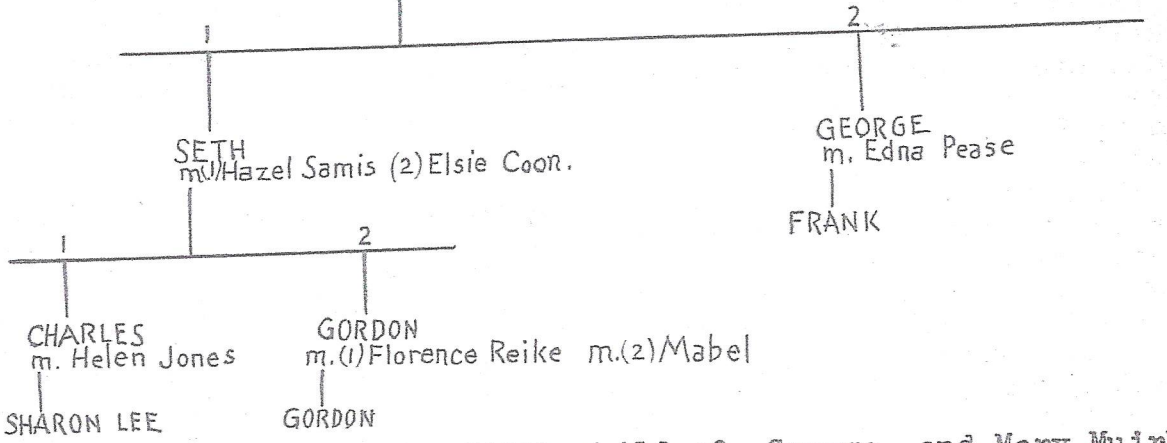
Plato, Milton attended the Elgin Academy and Ellis Business College in Elgin. In 1911 he married Hulda Rohrsen of Plato. They made their home in Plato, where Milton was engaged in farming until 1945 when they moved to their present home in Elgin. On January 26, 1951, Hulda passed away and was buried in the Plato Cemetery. Milton and Hulda had two children: Evelyn Marie, born January 3, 1914; and Milton Jr., born in November 1924, died in infancy. After finishing high school at Plato, Evelyn attended the Northern Illinois State Teachers' College at DeKalb. On April 14, 1934, she married Wayne Landers. Evelyn and Wayne reside in Elgin and are the parents of two children: Duane, born April 27, 1939; and Phyllis, November 15, 1941.

Mary Lillian, the older daughter of William and Martha, was born at Plato March 15, 1888, in the apartment above the old cheese factory, which William managed at the time of his marriage. During that summer the family moved to the farm west of Plato. James and Sarah Muirhead and their two children, George and Margaret, were living on the farm at the time and remained until the store at Plato Center, which was being built, was completed and ready for occupancy. That fall William and Martha and their two children, with William's sister Lillie, took a trip to California to visit Martha's family. Mary attended the rural school at Plato and later Elgin Academy. In the fall of 1906 she entered training at Sherman Hospital and after graduation did private duty for several years. During World War I she entered service and was stationed at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Later she was sent overseas where she spent three months in an army hospital at Allerey, France. From there her unit was transferred to the Army of Occupation at Trier, Germany, where she completed her last three months of service. While she was in Europe she met General Pershing when he visited the hospital where she was working. After the war Mary returned home to help her sister, Ethel, care for her invalid mother. In 1932 after the death of her mother, Mary resumed her nursing career and still does private duty.

The youngest child of William and Martha, Ethel, was born December 26, 1890, on the home farm. After attending school at Plato and Elgin Academy, Ethel returned home to help her parents. She was a member of the Plato Methodist Church and Sunday School, and after moving to Elgin with her parents she joined the Grace Methodist Church. On October 16, 1932, she married Harry F. Roberts of Chicago. He was employed by the W. F. Hall Printing Company, and they made their home in Elgin. After a brief illness Bud, as Harry was usually called, passed away August 9, 1934. Ethel and Bud have one child, William Harry, born April 6, 1925. After finishing Elgin High School, he attended Cornell College, Iowa, and the University of Illinois. On September 4, 1948, he married Shirley Ohman of Superior, Wisconsin, and they reside in Elgin. William is employed at the Elgin National Bank.

Luella Muirhead (1859

m. Charles S. Sherwood



Margaret Luella, the fifth child of George and Mary Muirhead, was the last of the family to be born on the farm east of Plato. She was born September 21, 1859, and when she was two and a half years old her family moved to the place west of Plato.

Luella, as she was always called, went to grade school at Plato and then attended Elgin Academy and at the same time worked for her board and room. While in Elgin she joined the Congregational Church of which Reverend Dickson was pastor. After studying at the Academy three years, she took the teachers' examinations which were given at Geneva, and as soon as she knew she had passed them she quit school. She was hired as a teacher in the Seapy District, in later years called the Sherwood District, and taught there one year for twenty-five dollars a month. She paid two dollars a week for board and room. The next year she taught at Plato Corners (Corron School) and received forty dollars, paying two and a half for board and room. Her third and last year of teaching was in the MacArthur District, (Rohrsen School) where she still taught for forty dollars but paid only a dollar and a half for board and room. Also she was nearer to her home.

On January 26, 1881, she married Charles S. Sherwood, who was born in Plato, May 27, 1849, the son of Seth and Zilpha Banker Sherwood. The marriage took place in the home of Luella's parents, and then the couple went to live on the Potter farm west of Plato. This farm is still owned by Luella, and at present Raymond Christensen resides there. It was on this farm that Charles and Luella lived until they retired and moved to Elgin in 1908. Two sons were born to them: Seth on May 25, 1884; and George, November 15, 1888. After her marriage Luella joined the Methodist Church in Plato and was active in both Sunday School and church work. She taught a Sunday School class and was president of the township Sunday schools for years. She also served as a steward in the church and was president of the Ladies' Aid.

Seth Sherwood was born in Plato and attended school there, later going to Elgin Academy. After leaving school he returned to help his father on the farm, and on January 15, 1908, he married Hazel Samis. The young couple lived on the home farm, and two children were born to them: Charles on September 27, 1908; and Gordon, March 10, 1912. Hazel passed away on November 1, 1928, and soon after Seth

left the farm and moved to Elgin. He then went to work for the Batavia Body Works, where he was employed for the rest of his life. In June 1937 he married Elsie Coon. He suffered a severe injury at work in 1947 and remained in poor health until his death April 6, 1950. His widow still resides in Elgin.

Charles Samis Sherwood, older son of Hazel and Seth, attended the Plato schools. He attended Mt. Morris College for two years and then went to work for the Western United Gas and Electric Company in Aurora, where he was employed until his death. In June 1934 he married Helen Jones of Aurora, and they have one daughter, Sharon Lee, born April 13, 1939. Charles passed away May 8, 1946.

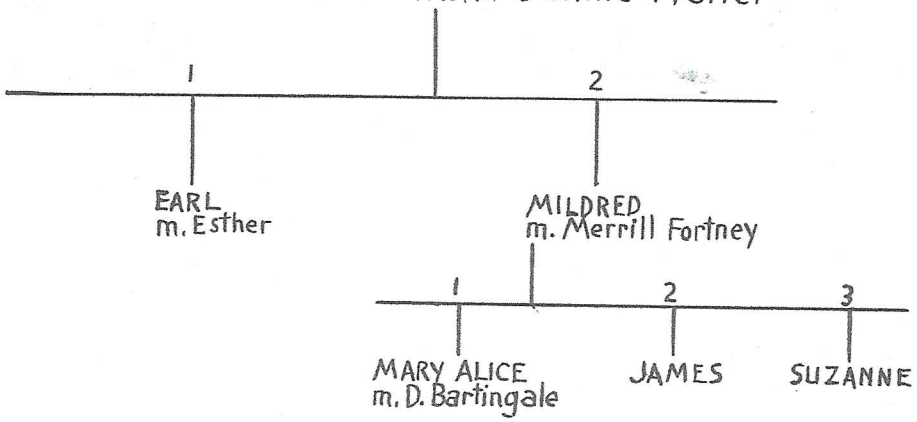
The second son, Gordon, was born March 10, 1912. He also attended school in Plato and then went to work in Elgin. In June 1937 he married Florence Reike of Barrington, and they have one son, Gordon Jr., born March 25, 1943. Florence and Gordon were divorced in 1945, and in 1946 Gordon married again. He and his wife, Mabel, reside in Algonquin.

George, the second son of Luella and Charles, was born in Plato. He attended the Plato Grade School and Elgin Academy. For some years he was employed by the Cudahy Packing Company, but in recent years he worked at the Elgin Manufacturing Company. George served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He married Edna Pease of Elgin, and they have one son, Frank George, who was born February 24, 1935. George passed away July 3, 1949, and was buried in the Plato Cemetery. Edna and Frank make their home in Elgin.

After Charles and Luella moved to the present home at 900 Larkin Avenue in Elgin, Charles suffered from poor health although he always appeared cheerful and happy. Luella was very active in the Women's Relief Corps, which she served as president for some time. On January 27, 1936, the couple celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary. Charles passed away August 13, 1936, and since then Luella has been confined to her home with rheumatism. However she is mentally as alert as ever and at the age of ninety-one has been the chief source of our information for this history. In recent years death has taken most of her immediate family, but she has met all her sorrows with tremendous courage, and she finds comfort in the love and respect of her many relatives and friends.

Lillie Muirhead (1862-1940)

m. Charles Bennett m.(1) Jennie Weller



Lillie Alice Muirhead was the first child of George and Mary Muirhead to be born in the new home northwest of Plato. She was born March 8, 1862, and at the usual age she started school. After finishing at Plato she continued her education at Elgin Academy for about three years. During this time Emily and her son had been staying with her parents since the death of Emily's husband, Emory Lee, but after Emily's marriage to Abraham Kershaw, Lillie was needed to help at home, so she left school.

She remained at home helping and caring for her parents, and after their deaths she kept house for her brothers -- George, Charles and John -- until her marriage. Lillie took an active interest in church and Sunday School work and served as president of the Ladies' Aid for several years.

For many years the Pearson family lived across the road from the Muirheads and were close friends. A daughter of that family -- Jennie Weller -- had been married and after a few years passed away. She was survived by her husband, Charles Bennett, and two small children, Earl and Mildred. Through the Pearsons Lillie became acquainted with the Bennetts and subsequently a romance developed between Charlie and Lillie. They were married August 13, 1906, in the Muirhead home, and Lillie went to Berwyn to live, as Charlie was employed in Chicago by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. Upon her marriage Lillie took over the task of rearing Charlie's children, and Earl and Mildred always felt as though she were their own mother. This close family relationship can best be summed up in Mildred's own words: "I have only the sweetest of memories of Mama and her many sacrifices for us. It took a big person to assume all the responsibilities that she had to assume when she married. She was an outstanding person."

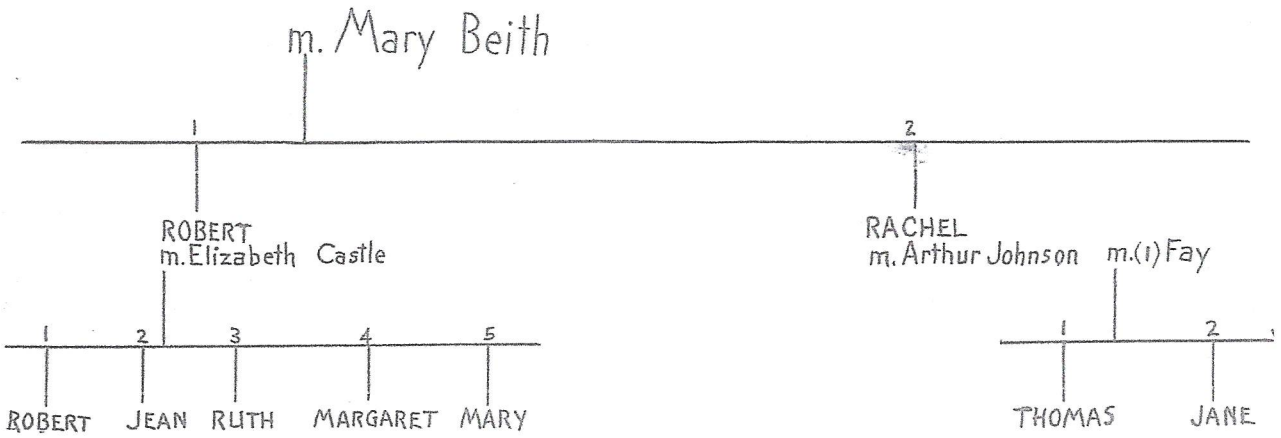
Lillie and Charlie were active members of the Methodist Church of Berwyn. They led happy, active lives in their community until Charlie passed away March 25, 1932. From that time Lillie lived only for her family, Earl and Mildred, and they did all they could to make her last years happy. She passed away at Mildred's home in Atlanta, Georgia, January 30, 1940, and was buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

Earl was educated in the Chicago and Berwyn schools and soon after joined the Naval Reserves. When World War I broke out, he was

one of the first to be called and served through most of that war in the area of the English Channel. After his discharge he returned to his home and went to work for the International Harvester Company where he is still employed. In October 1931 he married Esther Mense, and they made their home in Berwyn. On July 21, 1945, Esther passed away. Earl still resides in Berwyn.

After finishing high school Mildred attended Michigan State University where she studied home economics. Following graduation she taught a year at Monroe, Michigan. On October 17, 1922, she married Merrill Fortney of Dayton, Ohio, whom she met at college. He was employed by the National Cash Register Company, and his work has made it necessary for them to live in many different parts of the country. At the present time they reside in Toledo, Ohio, with their two younger children, James and Suzanne. Their oldest daughter, Mary Alice, stayed with her grandmother during the later years of Lillie's life. In 1945 Mary Alice graduated from the University of Tennessee, and on October 17, 1948, she married Dr. Donald Bartingale of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where the young couple now reside.

Charles G. Muirhead (1864–1942)



Charles Gordon Muirhead was born on November 8, 1864, on the farm he afterwards owned. He attended the Plato Grade School with his brothers and sisters, and after finishing school went to work with George on the farm. After the death of their parents, George, Charles and John worked on the farm, while Lillie kept house.

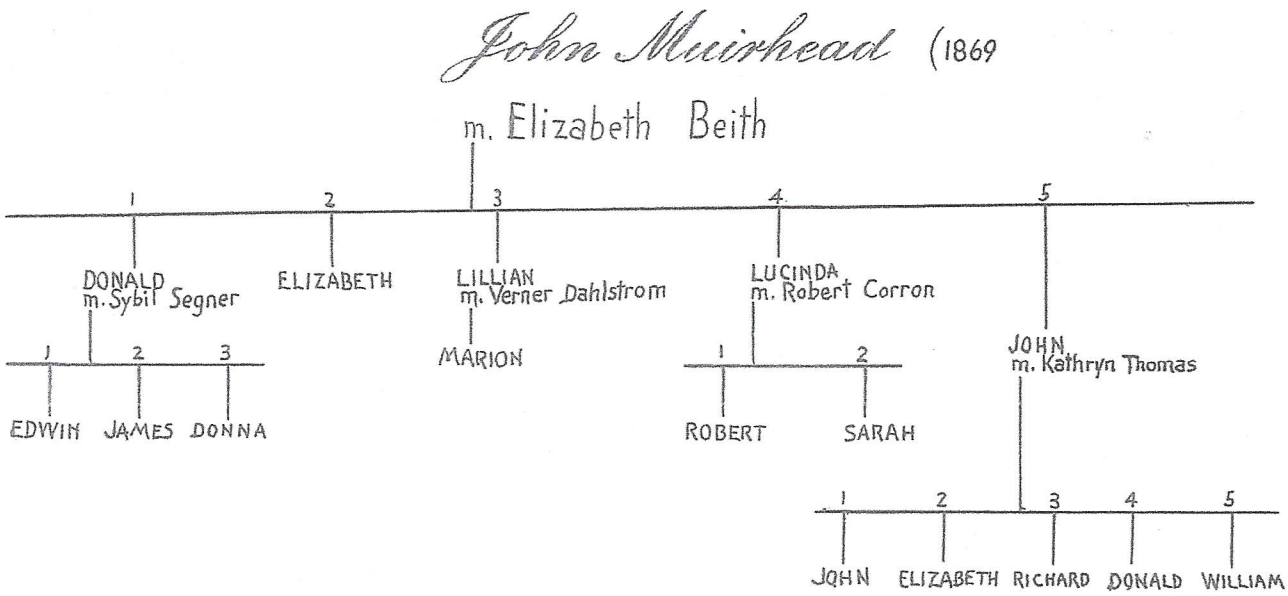
On September 4, 1906, Charles married Mary Beith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Beith of Elburn, Illinois, and to them were born two children: Robert and Rachel. George made his home with Charles and Mame, as she was usually called, until his death.

In 1912 Charles bought the Warner farm which joined him on the north and also ninety acres from his brother, George Muirhead, also north of his farm. In the fall of 1917 Charles and Mame rented their farms and moved to Elgin, where they had built a home at 250 Hamilton Avenue. They joined the First Congregational Church in 1920 and attended regularly.

Charles' interest was always in the farm where he helped as long as he was able. After suffering poor health for many years he passed away September 18, 1942, and was buried in the Plato Center Cemetery. Mame still resides in her home in Elgin.

Robert, the older child of Charles and Mame, was born in Plato January 3, 1908. He began school in Plato but soon after moved to Elgin where he continued his schooling. After graduating from Elgin High he attended the University of Wisconsin for two years. On September 26, 1931, he married Elizabeth Castle of Elgin, and a short time later the young couple moved to Plato to farm the old homestead. They are the parents of five children: Robert, born April 5, 1934; Jean, February 22, 1936; Ruth, February 14, 1942; Margaret, November 10, 1943; and Mary, November 18, 1947. At the present time Robert and Betty are building a new home on the farm, and after its completion the old house, which was the setting for so much of the Muirhead history, will be removed.

Rachel was born November 18, 1911, and also attended the Elgin schools. Later she attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago. She remained at home with her parents and was active in the Y.W.C.A. and church work in Elgin. Like her parents, she is an active member of the Congregational Church. On September 5, 1948, Rachel married Arthur Johnson, farm advisor of Kane County. Rachel and Art, with Art's children by a former marriage -- Tom and Jane -- reside with Rachel's mother in Elgin.



The youngest member of the family, John, was born on the home farm, March 4, 1869. At an early age he was sent to Sunday School, and a few years later began his formal education in the Plato Grade School, which at that time was located north of the Plato church. After leaving school John returned to work on the farm with his brothers.

During the next few years John divided his time between work on the farm and helping out his brother, Jim, in the store at Plato. His work in the store also included driving the grocery wagon around the community, and he especially enjoyed this contact with his neighbors and friends. It was during this period that he lost his parents, first his mother and a few years later his father.

John remained at home with George, Lillie and Charles until his marriage to Elizabeth Beith of Elburn in 1901, and the young couple moved to the old Rue farm two miles south of Plato. For the next five years they worked in partnership with his brothers but finally were able to buy the farm for themselves. Some time later they purchased a house with nine acres on the outskirts of Elgin and in 1920 sold it to Dr. Gabby, who still lives there. In 1919 they bought another farm in Campton Township where their oldest son, Donald, now lives. In 1937 they retired from active farming and built a home in Plato Center. John Jr. lives on the home farm.

In addition to his farm duties John has been active in community life, serving on school and church boards during most of his life. He and Elizabeth are members of the Plato Methodist Church. In 1938 he became supervisor of Plato Township and still serves his community in this capacity. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary January 7, 1951.

To John and Elizabeth were born five children: Donald, Elizabeth, Lillian, Lucinda and John. Donald, who was born March 1, 1902, received his education in the Plato schools. After graduating from Plato High School he attended Elgin Junior College for a short time, but left school to help his father on the farm. In 1929 he moved to the farm in Campton Township and began farming for himself. On February 14, 1941, he married Sybil Segner and adopted her two children, Edwin and James. Donald and Sybil's daughter, Donna, was born Decem-

ber 8, 1941.

Elizabeth was born November 25, 1904. When she was seven years old, she was afflicted with meningitis, and the rest of her brief life was filled with suffering. As a result of her illness she became totally blind. She had had a couple of years of school before her illness, and after she lost her eyesight she attended the Illinois School for the Blind at Jacksonville. She passed away February 21, 1919, at fourteen years of age.

Lillian was born January 6, 1907, and has lived all her life in the Plato Center area. She was educated at Plato High, Wheaton College and Gregg Business College. She was employed for a short time at the D. C. Cook Publishing Company in Elgin and later worked for the Plato Milk Company until her marriage to Verner Dahlstrom, a farmer in Campton Township, November 9, 1940. They have one daughter, Marion, who was born October 14, 1944.

Lucinda was born June 4, 1909. She too graduated from Wheaton College and later did graduate work at Northwestern University, receiving her M.A. in 1938. After graduating from Wheaton she returned to teach in the local high school, where she was employed until her marriage to Robert Corron of Wasco, June 14, 1946. They reside on a farm in Campton Township and have two children: Robert Jr., born December 4, 1947; and Sarah Louise, June 11, 1949.

John Jr., the youngest of the family, was born August 3, 1913. After finishing high school, he returned to the farm to help his father. On November 9, 1937, he was married to Kathryn Thomas of Burlington Township and took over the management of the farm upon his father's retirement. They have five children: John was born June 10, 1940; Elizabeth, May 26, 1943; Richard, August 8, 1944; Donald, July 31, 1947; and William, March 11, 1951.

THE MUIRHEAD REUNIONS

The first annual Muirhead reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Muirhead south of Plato on Labor Day in 1930. George Muirhead presided at the first reunion, and Charles Bennett was appointed secretary. It was decided to make the reunion an annual affair, and a committee was appointed to make plans for the next reunion. The six surviving sisters and brothers of the family -- Nettie, Luella, Lillie, William, Charles, and John -- were all present. Seventy-one members of the family attended that first reunion, and the number in attendance has not varied greatly through the years. The highest number ever to attend was eighty-four in 1945, and the lowest, fifty-six in 1943.

The reunions have been held in various places -- private homes and public parks -- but the Y.W.C.A. Camp at Elgin and Hopkins Park of DeKalb have proved especially popular due to their locations and facilities. Each year the chairman of the outgoing committee presides at the meeting and appoints the committee for the next reunion. Upon the death of Charles Bennett, Lucinda Muirhead was appointed secretary, and a complete record, with the names of all who attended and the names of the youngest and oldest members of the family present, has been kept of each reunion. Members of the family have come from all parts of the country -- from California to Pennsylvania -- and each year the reunion is the occasion for making the acquaintance of new members of the family and renewing old acquaintances. It is hoped that every descendant of George Muirhead may at some time be able to attend the reunion and meet other members of the Muirhead family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the many members of the Muirhead family for the information and help they furnished in compiling this history, we wish to express our sincere appreciation. The oldest living member of the family, Luella Muirhead Sherwood, was consulted at every stage of the work, and her help has been invaluable in giving us a vivid picture of the early days. Before his death William Muirhead also provided many interesting stories of the family which appear in this book. Special tribute should be given to Hugh McKenzie who drew all the genealogical charts, printed the title for the cover, and worked tirelessly on all the details for the publication of the history. Other members of the family who contributed material were: Robert McKenzie, Mrs. Harry Ellis, Jessie Ellis Seapy, Inez Tanner Bryner, Ada Tanner Stewart, Boyd Muirhead, Margaret Muirhead Johnson, Dorothy Muirhead Fitchie, Althea Kershaw Lewis, Mary Muirhead, Ethel Muirhead Roberts, Mildred Bennett Fortney, Mrs. Charles Muirhead and John Muirhead.

In a work of this magnitude where the information has depended largely on memory and word-of-mouth there will necessarily be many discrepancies. We trust you will read it with tolerance, excusing our mistakes and taking pride with us in the courage of our ancestors. To all the members of the Muirhead family we extend our thanks for making this book possible.

THE COMMITTEE

Marion McKenzie
Louise McKenzie
Lucinda Muirhead Corron

MUIRHEAD ADDRESS LIST

Catherine's Descendants

Mrs. John McKenzie, Oro Grande, California
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McKenzie, 402 Hawthorn Lane, Winnetka, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Harold McKenzie, 144 Green Bay Road, Hubbard Woods, Ill.
Mr. and Mrs. John Barney, 516 W. Addison St., Chicago 13, Illinois
Mrs. Gene Holland)
Miss Katherine McKenzie) 229 W. Fremont St., Elmhurst, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. John Treadwell, Maple Park, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Bevan McKenzie, Waterman, Illinois

Annabella's Descendants

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ellis, Box 832, Orling, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Verlyn Ellis, Route # 5, Box 4136, Tacoma, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Seapy, 519 Rosewood Court, Ontario, California
Mr. and Mrs. Will Ellis, Oaconia, South Dakota
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Ellis, Sebaca, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Kennard Ellis, Centerville, South Dakota
Mrs. Harry Ellis, 419 N. Cedar Street, Canton, South Dakota
Mr. and Mrs. Lief L. Dahl, Lowry, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dahl, Fairhaven, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Dahl, Route # 3, Box 3119, Edmunds, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ellis, 710 Southwest Avenue, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ellis, Elkton, South Dakota
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Timm, Pipestone, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeBoer, Box 42, Lowry, Minnesota
Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Schwartz, Canton, South Dakota
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baker, 208 N. Main Street, Clarion, Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gammon, 369 N. Craig Avenue, Pasadena, Cal.

Jane's Descendants

Miss Marion McKenzie, 2209 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Alcock, Lindenwood, Illinois
Mrs. Elmer McKenzie, Pearl City, Illinois
Mr. Charles G. McKenzie, Malta, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. George King, 201 W. Third Street, Hobart, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. Charles King, 328 N. Wisconsin, Hobart, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. John Roush, 1233 S. Sayer, Indianapolis, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vedope, 111 Center Street, Hobart, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. John McKenzie, 503 West Street, Sycamore, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barshinger, 1112½ Market Street, DeKalb, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ness, Route # 2, DeKalb, Illinois
Mr. Robert H. McKenzie, 804 Prospect Street, DeKalb, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Washburn, Coulee City, Box 736, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. James McKenzie, 706 Elwood Avenue, DeKalb, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Walter McKenzie, Elburn, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Donald McKenzie, Malta, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McKenzie, Route # 3, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McKenzie, Geneseo, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Roger McKenzie, 10753 Andora Avenue, Chatsworth, Cal.

Emily's Descendants

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Johnson, 331 Watres Place, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Price, 559 Mann Place, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bartels, 631 Forest Avenue, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Lewis, 175 N. DuBois Avenue, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Emory Lee, 1310 Sherwood, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Kershaw, Route # 1, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. George Kershaw, 175 N. DuBois Avenue, Elgin, Illinois

Mr. John Kershaw S.A. 303-18-07, U.S.S. Albany C.A. 123
% Fleet Postoffice, New York, New York

Nettie's Descendants

Mrs. Inez Bryner) 324 Sixth Avenue, S.W.
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Parmater) Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mrs. Hope L. Warner, Box 394, Issaquah, Washington
Mr. and Mrs. Jay M. Bryner, 1032 Prospect Street, Niagara, Wis.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Bryner, 13431 Seventh Ave. S., Seattle 88, Wash.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Krug, Atkins, Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Stewart, 352 Park Terrace, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Stewart, Squaw Creek Farm, Marion, Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buckingham, 2400 First Ave. W., Cedar Rapids, Ia.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yaw, 142 - 34th St., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa

James' Descendants

Mrs. James Muirhead, 1215 N. 18th Street, Boise, Idaho
Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Plato Center, Illinois
Mrs. George Muirhead, Plato Center, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. James Fitchie, 803 Valley Road, Havertown, Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. George Muirhead Jr., 3546 Harrison, Denver, Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Muirhead, 1240 Beeler Street, Aurora, Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Muirhead, 408 Orange Street, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. James Muirhead, 117 Jewett Street, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Muirhead, Plato Center, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Muirhead, Route # 2, Box 204, Elgin, Illinois

William's Descendants

Miss Mary Muirhead) 55 Hamilton Avenue, Elgin, Illinois
Mrs. Ethel Roberts)
Mr. and Mrs. William Roberts, 363 Illinois Avenue, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. Milton Muirhead, 152 S. Aldine Street, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Landers, 308 S. Weston Avenue, Elgin, Illinois

Luella's Descendants

Mrs. Charles Sherwood, 900 Larkin Avenue, Elgin, Illinois
Mrs. George Sherwood, 228 North Street, Elgin, Illinois
Mrs. Seth Sherwood, Columbia Apts., Center Street, Elgin, Illinois
Mrs. Charles Sherwood, 19 Jackson Place, Aurora, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Sherwood, Carpentersville, Illinois

Lillie's Descendants

Mr. Earl Bennett, 3312 Clinton Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Fortney, 2438 Densmore Drive, Toledo, Ohio
Dr. and Mrs. D. R. Bartingale, Lawes Creek Road, Eau Claire, Wis.

Charles' Descendants

Mrs. Charles Muirhead) 250 Hamilton Avenue
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Johnson)
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muirhead, Plato Center, Illinois

John's Descendants

Mr. and Mrs. John Muirhead, Plato Center, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Muirhead, Plato Center, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Verner Dahlstrom, Route # 2, Elgin, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Corron, Wasco, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. John Muirhead Jr., Plato Center, Illinois